

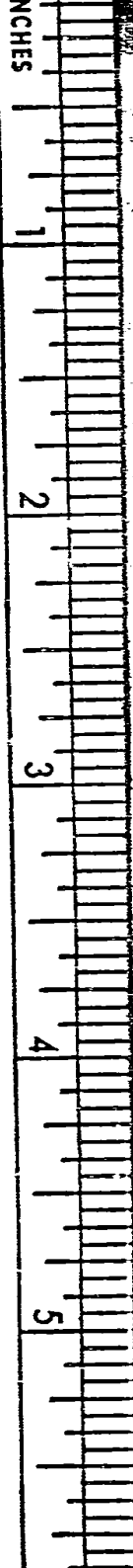
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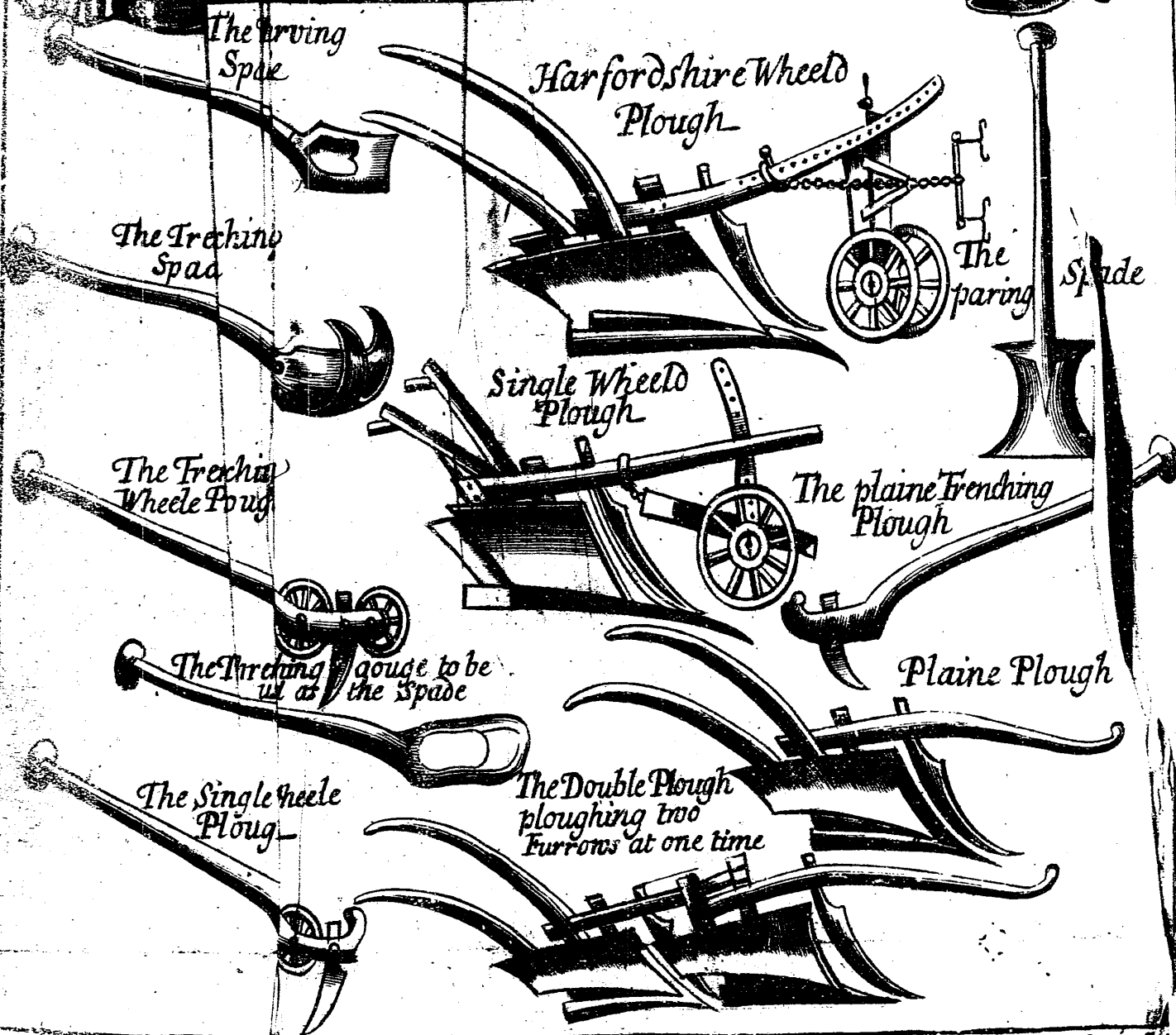
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The Mystery of Husbandry or Arable Pasture and Wood Land Improved.



THE Mystery of Husbandry:

O R,

Arable, Pasture, and Wood-land IMPROVED.

Containing the whole Art and Mystery of Agriculture or Husbandry, in Bettering and Improving all Degrees of Land, fertilizing the barrenest Soil, recovering it from Weeds, Bushes, Briars, Rubbish, Flags, Overflowings of salt or unwholesome Waters, to bear good Corn, or become Meadow or Pasture, Directions for Marling, Dunging, Mudding, Sanding, Flowing, Trenching, and other Methods of improving Land to the best Advantage.

Proper Times for Sowing, chusing good Seed, and Ploughing; with the Description of useful Ploughs suitable to the different sorts of Ground, &c.

How to keep Corn, and other Pulse, from being destroyed by Birds, Vermin, Lightning, Mice, Blasts, Smuttiness, cold Winds, &c. Harvest work, Inning or Stacking, &c.

The best Graineries for preserving Corn and Pulse, &c. How to know smutty or washed Corn from others.

Proper Tools for Husbandry and Day-labour complete Improvement of Land by Turneps, Carrots, Saffron, Madder, Hops, Wood or Wood, Coal, Seed, Hemp, Flax, Clover, St. Fain, &c.

Wood-land to improve, in setting, lopping, and managing to a vast Increase; the great Advantage of Inclosures, &c.

To which is added,

The Countryman's ALMANACK.

By LEONARD MEADE.

LONDON: Printed by W. Onley, for Henry Nelme, at the Leg and Star in Cornhill. 1697.

Price 1s.

London Printed for Henry Nelme at the Leg and Star in Cornhill

UMI

THE
P R E F A C E
TO THE
R E A D E R.

R E A D E R,

HAVING well weighed and considered with mature Deliberation, that a Work of this nature cannot but be grateful to my Country, I have the more laboured to bring it to the highest Pitch of Improvement, supplying what has been omitted by others, who have with some Diligence and Industry attempted to compile a compleat Body of Agriculture; or to lay down such material things, as might redound to the bettering the Knowledge of the Ingenious Countryman, to make his Charge and Labour answer his Expectation, but have, in many matters, upon Experience, come short of what was, no doubt, well meant, because most of them had not practised what they writ, but

To the Reader.

were obliged to borrow them from others, and take them on Trust, and many of them from Foreign Authors; not well considering, that differing Climates produce different Effects, though things are managed one and the same way: For what the Ground in one Country will kindly produce, that in another, through too much Heat, Cold, or Moisture, will not, though the Soil be much of the like Temper; in which, were it not for Brevity's sake, I could give many convincing Instances.

These things, I say, consider'd, I have grounded this Work upon long Experience, and truly proved to my great Advantage whatever I have laid down; which I have done in as easie a Method, and as practicable as can be; and, as I think, have omitted nothing that is proper for such a Treatise. I have given you the proper Manures, the Nature of the several sorts of Lands, and the true way of improving them from little or no Value to great Advantage. Also an exact Method for draining all sorts of Land, and for floating it, as occasion requires; with the Description of Tools, and proper Engins for the Work and Management: The best Methods for Ploughing and Sowing, the laying of Land, and the distributing of Grain, and every thing else that is necessary, from its springing up, till it is sold and delivered in the Market. To which I have subjoined many other rare and

To the Reader.

and profitable Improvements of Barren Land, known to few, and practised by less; because some have already been discouraged herein, for want of well-grounded Notions to further them in the true Experiment; it being too much the Nature of English-men, in matters of expected Profit, to be too soon discouraged, if things at first fail to succeed to their Wish.

I have further considered every thing that is useful relating to Wood-lands, or Improvement of Lands to a vast Value, by setting Trees, with all the Measures of ordering them; and laid down many convincing Reasons for the promoting of Inclosures, answering the Objections of Commoners, and others, who oppose it, to their own great Disadvantage, out of Obstinacy or foolish Custom, when by this means vast numbers of poor People might be set on work at present, and for the future be well maintained, if not enriched by the Advantage arising thereby.

And, to make this Work more compleat, I have added an Almanack, containing Prognosticks of Weather, Seasons, Observations of the Year from Critical Days, and what is proper in many Particulars to be observed in every Month, as well in Affairs, as to keep and order the Body, and to continue it in a healthful Temper, and for Seven Years to come. Among sundry other things, too tedious here to mention, I have set down the exact

To the Reader.

Fallings out of the Movable Festivals; and when the Movable Terms begin and end. So that, I conceive, I have laboured to the purpose, and therefore cannot but reasonably hope this Work will find Acceptance. In expectation whereof, that I may be the further encouraged to do for the publick Good, I am, kind Reader,

Your Friend and Humble Servant,

L. M.

T H E

T H E
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THE

I

THE Mystery of Husbandry :

O R,

Arable, Pasture, and Wood-Land
IMPROVED.

The INTRODUCTION.

*Of the Excellency, Necessity, and Usefulness of the
Advancement of Good Husbandry.*

THE Excellency of Husbandry appeareth partly
by its Antiquity, as we esteem Things to be
the more Admirable, the more Ancient, and
the nearer they come to God, the First Being
of all Beings; for as all Things nearer the Centre move
more strongly, so all Excellency appears most evidently
the nearer (if I may speak with Reverence) to the Great
Majesty, the Almighty Husbandiser, God himself. First,
in his Making the World: He made all Creatures, all
Plants, Fruits, Trees, Herbs, and all Things bearing
Seed for the Food of Man and Beast; God also made these
most Excellent and Glorious Creatures, as the Light, the
Day, the Firmament, the Earth, and Seas, the Sun,
Moon, and Stars, all to be Serviceable, and Ministers to the
Creatures Relief, and all the Creatures subservient to Man,
B and

and Man to Overlook, Cherish, and Improve the Fruits of the Earth, and Dress and Keep them for the Use of the whole Creation. So that God was the Original and Pattern of all Husbandry, and First Contriver of the Great Design, to bring that odd Mass, and Chaos of Confusion, unto so vast an Improvement, as all the World admires and subsists on: And having given Man such a Pattern, both for Precept and Precedent for his Encouragement, he made him Lord of all until he fell; and after that, God intended the Preservation of what he made, notwithstanding the Great Curse upon *Adam*, *Eve*, and the *Serpent*, the Earth not being free from it, but a Curse of Barrenness cast upon it also, yet *Adam* was sent forth to Till the Earth, and Improved it, in the Sweat of his Face he must eat Bread, until he return to the Earth again; and so down to *Abel*, the one Husbanding the Earth for Tillage, and the other the Sheep, in Pasturing and Grazing; and so down to *Noah*, the first Planter of the Vine, he began to be an Husbandman; and to *Abraham*, and to *Jacob*, and to *Esaú*, and so along from the Patriarchs, till they came to the Government of Kings, where *Uzziah's* Commendation was, *That he loved Husbandry*, 2 Chron. 26. 11. And many excellent Things, as if Husbandry were most excellent, as indeed it is, here on Earth, where *Solomon*, the Wisest Man, was the Second Husbandman, or Improver of the World, whom you shall find, out of the Depth of his Experience, to cry up Diligence and Activity in good Husbandry, and therefore he sendeth us to the *Pis-mire*, declaiming against the Sluggard and Slothful, *On whom*, saith he, *cometh poverty as an armed man*. He extols the Diligent, as fittest to converse with Kings, when the Idle shall be under Tribute. For the Usefulness of it, it is no less than the Maintenance of our Lives, Estates, the Common-wealth, and an Advancement and Improvement of the Fruits and Profits of the Earth by Ingenuity, is little less than an Addition of a New World; for what is gained hereby, either above the Natural Fruitfulness of the Earth, or else by Reducement of that which is Destroyed, or Impoverished from its Natural Fruitfulness, to a greater Fertility, is a clear Argumentation and Addition

Addition to the Honour and Profit of our *English* Nation: All other Callings but proceeding hence, the Earth being the very Womb that bears all, and the Mother that must nourish and maintain all. The Merchant is a gallant Servant to the Common-wealth, he fetches his Riches from far, and he is a worthy Contributor to the Wealth and Prosperity of the Kingdom; but he produceth it from others, who could themselves make great Profit of it, and though he gaineth a great Estate, yet he raiseth it not out of nothing, but parts with Gold and Silver, and with Commodities for it: But this Merchant of Husbandry, he raiseth it out of the Earth, which otherwise would yield little, unless his Ingenuity digged and fethed it out; otherwise, possibly it had never been so discovered, as to have been there. And what parts he with for it? What Rates purchaseth he it at? Even only by his ingenious Industry, and with the Wages of the Labouring Man, whom he is bound both by the Laws of God and Nature, to allow a Competent Maintenance. Oh, the Excellency, Integrity, and Use of Husbandry; *Prov. 11. 26. A blessing is on the head of him that tilleth corn, and the thoughts of the diligent bring abundance*. To conclude with few words: As for the Terms of Husbandry, I resolved to deliver my self in our own Native Country's ordinary and home-spun Language, not slighting those ancient Terms which are used in several Countries, the better to acquaint my Countrymen with them; all which I shall do as briefly as possibly I may, to render my self acceptable to my Reader's clearest Apprehension.

C H A P. I.

How to know the Goodness of the Ground.

MAny count that to be the best Ground, that lieth at the foot of a Hill, being level, and towards the Sun, in Cold and Northerly Countries, it is good to have the Land to be East and South, least these two Quarters, being hard off by an Hill, the Land be frozen with Cold : but in hot Countries, it is better to have the Ground lie North, both for Pleasure and Health. You may sooner know the Conditions of every Ground, than of Men themselves ; for the Ground being well Tilled, can hardly deceive you. To know the Nature therefore of every Ground, you must mark well the Plants, and the Yield of the Country, except you will lose your Labour, look whether there be in the Land, either Stone, Marble, Sand, Gravel, Raddel, Chalk, Clay, Prebile, or Carbuncle, that is, Ground over-heated and parched with the Sun, which will burn the Roots of whatsoever cometh in it. Also, if it be wet or weeping Ground, or subject to such other Inconveniences, and such Ground also, according to the Natures of the Soyl, is good or evil. In some Countries Stone Ground is altogether barren, especially for Corn and Fruit : in other Places again, they use Stones in the Manuring and Bettering of their Ground. In some places, in stony and hilly Ground, Oars do prosper well. In like manner also, in all Countries, you must regard the Layre of the Country, and the Nature of the Seed that we sow, for Gravel in some places is cast upon the Ground, instead of Dung, and some Things prosper best in Gravelly Ground. It is also something to the purpose, whether the Gravel be White, Red, or Yellow : besides, pure Ground doth deceive both with Colour and Quality. In some Countries the black Mould is only esteemed : in others, the fat red Mould is thought best. In other places the chalky Ground beareth good Corn, and Pastures very well. In some places

places the thick and clammy Ground is most fruitful ; in all these it is to be learned, what is best for the hilly Ground, what for the Valley, what for the Tilled, what for the Lay Ground, what the moist Sedgy Ground requires, and what the Dry and Barren. Also in Planting, what Ground is best for Vines, what for other Trees, what delights in dry Ground, and what in moist Ground. *Virgil* commendeth a Ground that is fat ; for such Ground is Tilled with smallest Charge and Labour : the next, that which is fat and stiff, which greatly recompenseth the Husbandman's Travail and Charges : the worst, is, that which is dry, lean, and stiff ; for it is not only Tilled with great pains, but also, it doth not answer the Husbandman's Expectation in his Crop, neither at any time serveth it for good Meadow, or Pasture, and therefore such Ground is not to be medled withal. Also, the Goodness of the Ground, may be easily perceived by these Signs, and following Tokens : For a cold Clod sprinkled with a little Water, if in working with the Hand it be clammy, and cleaving, and sticketh to the Fingers like Pitch, when it is handled, and breaketh not in falling to the Ground, this sheweth a Natural Fattness and Richness to be in it : besides, you may know the Mould that is good for Corn, if it bear Bull-rushes, Thistles, Three-leaved Grass, Dunwort, Brambles, Black Thorn, and such-like, as never grow (but for the most part) in good Ground : as on the other side, the loathsome and ill-favoured Weeds, declare a lean and a bitter Ground : Fern, and withered Plants, a cold Ground ; sad and heavy coloured, a moist and a wet Ground ; a raddel and a stony Ground, is discerned by the Eye ; a stiff and a tough Clay, by the Labour and Toil of the Oxen. It is also a Sign of a good Ground, where the Crows and Pies, in great Numbers, follow the Plough, scraping in the Steps of the Ploughman. The Goodness is likewise known, if at the Sun-setting, after a Rainbow, and in a Shower of Rain, following a Drought, it yieldeth a pleasant succour. Also, in Taste it will appear : if Tasting of a Clod that hath been Watered in an Earthen Vessel, you find it sweet, it is a sign of a rich Ground ; if bitter, a great Token of barren

ren Ground ; if it be saltish, it is to be shunned, and not to be used. You must take Notice that Ground will also change, and of fruitful become barren ; which hath been seen in several places of our Country. Besides, one kind of Ground, though it be never so fertile, will not bear all things. Moreover, the Disposition of the Heavens is a great matter, all Countries have not the Weather and Air alike ; wherefore, it is the part of a good Husbandman, to know the Nature and Properties of his Ground, and to mark the Disposition of it for every Season of the Year : he must also consider, what Crop is best for every Layer. Some Ground serveth for Corn, some for Meadow, some for Pasture, neither may all things be well sown in rich Ground, nor nothing in barren Ground. Such things as need not much moisture, are best sown in light Ground, as the great Claver, Sperry, Chich, and the other Pulses that are pulled, and not cut. Those that require much Sustenance, are sown in richer Ground, as Pot-herbs, Wheat, Rye, Barley, Linseed : some of them do good in the Year following, as Lupins, that are used to be sown for the bettering of the Ground. There is Difference also to be put, betwixt Fruits for Pleasure, and such as are for Profit as Fruit-Trees and Flowers, and such Things as yield both Pleasure and Sustenance, and are also profitable to the Ground. You must choose for Willows, Osiers, and Reeds, a wet and marshy Ground ; and contrary, where you will have Corn and Pulse, that delights in dry Ground. Sperage, and such-like, must be sown in shady places, and other Ground for Quickset, Timber, Mast, and Fewel : yea, such Ground as is very gravelly and barren, hath its use, where you may plant Birch, and such like ; and watry Grounds, where you may set Alders, Eroom, Bull-rushes, &c.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

Of the Dunging of Ground.

Since in all places the Ground is not of a like goodness, if we chance upon a lean, and a barren Ground, as heathy, brushy, and gravelly Ground, we must endeavour to make these fruitful, and to mend them by Art ; for there is no Country that our most Gracious GOD hath left without sufficient Yield, if we use but our Industry, which may be happily employed divers ways, principally by Dunging, and diligent Labour. To which purpose, it will be necessary for us to know, what Dung doth most enrich the Earth : The most Expert of the Ancient Husbandmen, appoint three sorts of Dungs : the first of Poultry, the next of Men, the third of Cattel. Of the first sort, the best is had out of Dove-Houses ; the next is of Pulline, and other Fowl, except Geese and Ducks, which is hurtful. The Ancients had such store of Poultry and Fowl, as the Dung of them is said to have sufficed for the Manuring of their Ground. The next to this, is Man's Ordure, if it be mixt with other Rubbish of the House : for of itself it is too hot, and burns the Ground. Man's Urine, being kept six Months, and poured upon the Roots of Apple-trees, and Vines, causeth them to be very fruitful, and giveth a pleasant Taste to the Fruit. In the third place, is the Dung of Cattel, whereof the best is the Dung of Asses, because this Beast doth chew with the most leisure, whereby his Meat being well digested, is made the profitabler Dung. Next to this, is, the Dung of Sheep, next of Goats, then of Oxen, and Horses. The worst of Swine, very hurtful to the Corn, but used in some Places for Gardens, for want of other Dung, it is a great Breeder of noysom Weeds. The Dung of Horses likewise, where they are fed with Barley, doth breed Weeds. The Lupine, before he bear his Cod, is most commended, being turned up with the Plough or Martock, and laid in

Bundles about the Roots of Trees or Vine. Where they have no store of Cattel, they use to mend their Ground with Straw and Fern, and with the Stalks of Lupines, and the Branches laid together in some Ditch: then unto you may cast Ashes, the Filth of Sinks and Privies, Straw, and other things raked together: but in the midst you must lay some sound Substance, against the Breeding of Adders and Snakes: also Hemlocks, Walwort, and the Weeds growing about Willow-Trees, and Fern, with other such rotten Weeds, you may gather and lay under your Sheep. They that dwell in gravelly and heathy Grounds, do take the Turns of the Earth and Heath, and laying them in Heaps, powdered with a little Dung, suffer them to lie and rot, and after lay it on barren Ground, but more especially when they keep great store of Sheep, they cast into their Folds such Turns pared from the Ground; *Columella* counts them but bad Husbands, that have of every one of the lesser kind of Cattel, less than a Cartload of Dung in Three hundred Days, and each of the greater sort ten Load, besides the Filth and Dirt of the Yard. This is also to be taken Notice of, that the Dung that hath lain a Year, is best for the Corn, for it both is of sufficient strength, and breedeth less Weeds; but upon Meadow and Pasture, you must lay the newest, because it brings most Grass; and this must be done in *February*, the Moon encreasing; for this is the best time to cause increase of Grass.

In the Manuring of your Ground, look that you lay most Dung upon the top of the Hill, for the Rain will drive it into the lower parts fast enough.

He that intends to have his Ground to bear much Corn, if he mean to Sowe in the end of the Summer, must turn in his Dung in *September*; if in the Spring, he may lay it on in any time of the Winter. What time soever he doth it, he must look that the Wind be Westerly, and the Moon in the Wayne. Besides, he must be sure, that the Dung be dry when he lays it on the Ground; for laying it on while it is moist, it doth more harm to the Ground than good, as daily Experience teacheth. Now as the Land will wax cold, if it be not Dunged, so will it be dried

dried or burnt, if it be Manured yearly, or too much. The watry Ground requireth more store of Dung, and the dry Ground the less.

In some places, the Scouring of Ponds and Ditches is used, to the great enriching of the Ground; in mountainous and barren Lands, they make their Land fruitful with laying on of Chalk; but long use of it makes the Ground stark nought: from whence it is grown a common Saying, *That Ground enriched with Chalk, makes a rich Father, and a beggarly Son.*

The River-Land, by overflowing, and fast Ground with muddy, mingled with Sand and Gravel, will do very well.

C H A P. III.

The Nature, Use, and Benefit of Marl.

THE *German*, besides other sorts of Enriching their Grounds, do, in some places, instead of Dung, cast upon it a kind of a Pitch and Fatness of the Earth, (*Pliny* would have it to be first devised in *England* and *France*) called, *Marga*, as it were, the Fat of the Earth: it is gotten in deep Pits, but not alike in all Soyls. Questionless, Marle is a very useful thing, the Nature of it cold; which is the Reason that it saddens the Land exceedingly, and very heavy it is, and will go downward.

Some Countries yield Marle of several Colours, as 'tis affirmed of *Kent*, where 'tis found both Yellow, Grey, Blew, and Red; the Blew and Grey are counted the best: for to Marle together, I hold not proper; but when you resolve to lay down your Land to Graze, be sure at the last Crop you intend to take, (which may be two or three more after Marling) then Manure your Land with Dung, which will open, lighten, and loosen the Land: for the less binding, and the more light, loose, and open, the more fruitful it is, so that it will produce a gallant Clover.

The first Year after you have laid it down upon the Wheat, or mixed Corn-stubble, you should run it over again with Dung, and it will pay treble.

The Lands upon which Marle is most natural for increase, is upon the higher sandy Land mixed of Gravel, or any sound Land whatsoever, though never so barren, to which it is natural, and nourishing, as Bread to Man's Life.

C H A P. IV.

Of Ploughing, the Parts of the Plough, and the best Season for Ploughing.

IN Ploughing and Ordering, and right Preparing the Ground for Seed, consists the chiefest Point of Husbandry. The most Experienced affirm, That the first Point of Husbandry, is to Prepare the Ground; the second, to Plough it well; and the third, to Dung it well. The Fashions are divers, according to the Nature of every Soil and Country. All great Fields are Tilled with the Plough and Share, the lesser with the Spade.

The Ploughs, some are single, some double, of sundry Fashions, according to the diversity of the Countries; some are with Wheels, some without.

The Parts of the Plough are, the Tail, the Shelf, the Beam, the Foot, the Coulter, the Share, the Wheels, and the Staff. The Share is that which first cuts the way for the Coulter, that afterwards turns up the Furrow, where the Ground is light, they use only a small Share.

In *Liffland*, they have for their Plough, nothing but a Fork. In *Syria*, where they cannot go very deep, they use (as *Theophrastus* saith) very little Ploughs. *Pliny* writes, that Wheels for Ploughs were devised by the *Frenchmen*, and called *Flugrat*, a *German* Name, which is corruptly printed *Planarati*.

In divers places where the Ground is stiff, they have a little Wing on the right side of the Coulter, which Wing is to be removed to which side you list: with the Rod or Staff, well pointed, the Plough-man maketh clean his Coulter, when he works.

The Oxen must be yoked even together, that they may draw the more handsomely, with their Heads at liberty, that their Necks may not be hurt. This kind of Yoaking is better liked of many, than to be yoked by the Horns: for the Cattel shall be able to draw better with the Neck and the Breast, than they shall be with their Heads: and this way they put too the force of their whole Bodies, whereas the other way (being restrained by the Yoak, and their Heads) they are so vexed and hindred, as that they can scarcely race the upper part of the Earth.

Where Horses may be used, they are more commodious for the Plough, and the fewer of them the better: for many Horses draw too hastily, and make too large Furrows, which is not good: whereas we see the Ground to be excellently well ploughed in *Gelderland*, and about *Cologne*, where they plough only with two Horses, going very softly.

In *France*, and other places, where they plough with Oxen, they make their Furrows rather deep than broad. Where the Ground is stiff, the Coulter must be the greater and the stronger, that it may go the deeper: for if the Crust of the Earth be turned up very broad, it remaineth still whole, whereby neither the Weeds are killed, nor the Ground can be well harrowed. The Furrow ought not to exceed One hundred and twenty foot in length; for if it do, as some hold, it is hurtful to the Beasts, because it will be too wearisome to them: but this Rule is not observed, as in the Countries where the Fields are great, their Furrows are drawn very long.

You must not plough in wet Ground, nor when after a long Drought, a little Rain falling, hath but wet the upper part, and not gone deep. If it be too wet when it is ploughed, it will do little good that Year, you must therefore observe, that the Season be neither too dry,

nor too wet: for too much driness causeth it, that it will never work well; for either the hardness of the Earth will resist the Plough, or if it does enter, it breaks it not small enough, but only turneth up great Flakes hurtful to the next Ploughing. For though the Land be never so rich, yet if you go any depth, it will prove barren, which is turned up with great Clods, from whence it proceeds, that the bad Mould mixt with the good, yieldeth the worse Corn.

Where you have ploughed in a dry Season, it will be convenient for you to have some moisture in your second stirring, which moistning the Ground, shall make your Labour the easier. When the Ground is rich, and hath long born Water, it is to be stirred when the Weather is warmer, and when the Weeds are full grown, and have their Seeds in their top, which being ploughed so thick, as you can scarce see where the Coulter hath gone, utterly killeth and destroyeth the Weeds: besides, through many stirrings, your Fallow is brought to so fine a Mould, as that it shall need little or no Harrowing, when you Sowe it: for the old *Romans*, as *Calpurnia* affirms, would say, that the Ground was ill husbanded, that after Sowing had need of the Harrow.

Moreover, the good Husbandman must try whether it be well ploughed or not, and not only to trust to his Eyes, but to Experience with his hand, (otherwise the Balkes being covered with Mould) he may easily be deceived, so that he must be upon certain proof; to which purpose, let him thrust down a Rod into the Furrow, which if it pierce alike in every place, it sheweth that the Ground is well ploughed. If it be shallow in one place, and deep in another place, it signifies that the Ground was not well ploughed.

If you are to plough upon a Hill, you must plough overthwart, and not up and down: for thereby the inconvenience of the steepness is met withal, and the Labour both of the Men and Cattel is eased; but herein you must be careful, that you plough not always one way, but sometimes higher, sometimes lower, working aslope as you must see cause.

Touching

Touching the Season of Ploughing, it must be chiefly in the Spring; for in Summer the Ground is too hard, and in Winter too foul and dirty; but in the Spring, the Ground being mellow, is easily to be wrought, and the Weeds are then but turned in, which both does good for the Enrichment of the Ground; and plucked up by the Roots before they have seeded, will spring again: and therefore, for the most part, we begin to plough about the midst of *March*; but sandy and light Grounds, they use to be ploughed in the midst of Winter, if the Season will suffer.

Pliny is of my Opinion, that stiff Ground then should be stirred.

A slender and level Ground, subject to Water, should be first ploughed in the end of *August*, and stirred again in *September*, and prepared for Sowing about the twelfth of *March*.

The light hilly Ground is not to be broken up in Summer, but about the middle of *September*: for if it be broken up before, being barren, and without Juyce, it may be burnt up with the Sun, and have no goodness remain in it.

Wet Ground, some would have to be broken up after the Ides, or beginning of *April*, which being ploughed that time, should be stirred about the tenth of *June*, and after again. But those that are skilful in Husbandry agree, that in the tenth of *June*, without great store of Rain, you shall not plough; for if the Year be wet, I know nothing to the contrary, but that you may plough in *July*. In the mean time be very careful, that you meddle not with Ground that is over-wet.

C H A P. V.

Of Liming, Sanding, and Hacking Land, to make it fruitful.

THERE are other Considerations relating to the well Ordering of Ground, than what I have already touch'd on, to clear and prepare them for Corn, Grass, Pulse, or other Things, useful and exceeding profitable :

If the Ground be barren, cold, or produces Weeds or Rushes, to help it, and bring it to a moderate Temper of Improvement for Fruitfulness, Lime is exceeding good. The Lime-stones may be got among Quarries of Stones, and in divers other places you may burn them in a Kiln, in the most convenient place you have, to save Charges of Carriage, and when you have before sanded your Ground, and hacked it, make your Lime small, and on every Acre bestow between thirty and forty Bushels of Lime, spreading and mixing it exceeding well with the Sand and Earth, and the stronger and sharper the Lime is, the better the Earth will be, and the Improvement will answer your Cost and Labour.

It matters not, of what Colour your Lime-stones are, whether of a pure White, or of a Grey, so they be sharp and strong in quality, to give a good Tincture to the Earth, it being the Strength and Goodness of the Lime, not the Beauty, that in this kind brings forth the Profit; and, indeed, it is a great Helper to Cold Grounds, especially Clay, or Wet Grounds; and this is a great Preparer to laying Dung on these Lands, or any Soyl that is fatning, either of Cattel, or such as is cast out of Ponds, Lakes, or muddy Ditches, for barren and hard Earth can never be overlaid with good Manure, or Compost, seeing the want of Warmth and Fatness which these produce, was before the occasion of the Unfruitfulness.

As

As for the Hacking and Sanding mentioned, the first is, after the Ground has been turned up with the Plough, to go over it with a long Hoe, or Hack, and cut in pieces the Grass that you see turned up in the Ridges, or Furrows, or any uneven Clumpers, that it may be dragged away, burnt, or carried together with the Weeds, not to grow up again to incumber the Corn, or Pulse; and Sanding is to bring Loads of Sand, lay them in convenient places, as Heaps of Dung, and spread them lightly, or thick, as you see occasion, over the Ground, that the Lime mixing with it, may the better Embody with the Mould, and Rain falling, be soaked in a good depth, to the heartning the Ground, and producing a good Crop to encourage the industrious Farmer.

C H A P. VI.

Of the First and Second Ploughing, and of Harrowing.

AS to the first manner of Ploughing of Ground that is barren, for the Improvement of it, if it lie free from Water, as commonly all even barren Earths do, then throw down the Furrows flat, and between every of them leave a little Baulk, about half the breadth of the Furrow, and so go thorough and plough up the whole, without any regard to Difference or Distinction of Lands; but if there be danger of Annoyance of Water, lay the Furrows more near and high, dividing the Ground into several Lands, proportioning each of them to lie highest in the middle, that the Water descending may have free passage on either side; and when you have Hacked, Sanded, and Limed it, as before directed, come to your Second Ploughing.

In the Second Ploughing, penetrate the Ground deeper than at first, taking, as the Husbandmen call it, a good Stitch, to raise up Earth at the Quick, which before was not

not stirred, make your Furrows deeper and greater, laying them closer and rounder together : and in this Order, or Latter Earing, be sedulous to plough it as clean as may be, leaving no Baulks, or any Escapes ; and as you plough, have those that shall follow, to run it over with a Second Hacking ; that is, with a heavy Share, Hoe, or Hack, to clear, or kill the Grass and Weeds, as also to lay it level.

This done, take a Pair of strong Iron-teethed Harrows, and go over the Ground, to open and rare that which was ploughed and hacked into smaller Particles, and raise the Mould lightly in greater abundance. Then take the best sort of that Grain you think fit to Sowe in it, and scatter it according to the Art of good Husbandry, suffering your Sprinkling to be a Medium, not too much nor too little.

The Seed being sprinkled on the Ground, make your Second Harrowing to cover it close and well, being careful to break all the Clots as near as possible, raising the Mould as fine and high as may be, that it may cover the Seed the deeper, and prevent the Rain washing it up, or the Birds, and other Vermin, from destroying it ; for certain it is, that these cold, clayey, or barren Grounds, if not lightly raised, keep in and clog the Seed, which by reason of its roughness, cannot easily break through, or if it does, the Cold at the Roots, starve the Spires, and they mostly wither away, if not helped by Proper Means and Arduous Labour.

As for Clotting the Earth, it is very proper in many Cases ; for when you have Sowed and Harrowed the Ground, if notwithstanding some hard Clumpers remain, which will be in hard tough Earth subject to barrenness, which the Rain cannot dissolve, so that the Grain in vain may labour to get through them, to crumble these then, take a Clotting-Beele, made of sound Wood, very hard, after the form of a Carpenter's Mallet, but with a much longer Handle, and heavier Head, and with it go over the Ground in a dry Season, and dash them to pieces, or to spread them the more, you may take a flat Board, much about two Inches in thickness, and a foot broad, fastened

to a strong Handle, that on necessity you may use with the force of both your Hands, in the manner of a flat Shovel.

C H A P. VII.

Of Weeding and Destroying the Weeds, with Directions to Order the Corn in Sowing, &c.

WEEDS are very offensive and destructive to Corn, in hindering its Growth ; and therefore having brought you to bestow your Corn in barren Ground, it is but reasonable I should tell how to preserve it, that it prosper to answer your Expectation :

When the Corn is sprang up about a foot above the Ground, these sorts of Soil, whose nature it is to produce Weeds, will require your Industry, and they must be taken out, if Thistles, or such as are great and offensive, with Hooks, or Nippers, by cutting them off close by the Roots, or rather pulling them up by the Roots, if that, by breaking the Ground, will not drag up the Roots of the Corn with them. The Nipper may be made with two long Pieces of hard Wood ; riveted, to be opened like a Pair of Pincers, with Saw-teeth, closing into one another, that they may take the surer and firmer hold without slipping ; and these may be much hindered in their Growth, by Sowing about two Bushels of Bay-Salt, to an Acre of Land, as you do your Wheat after the Grain is Sowed ; which is also of so excellent a Nature in barren Lands, that it heats them to a degree, and makes what is Sowed, prosper and multiply manifold. As also will, Steeping your Grain in Sea-Water ; or being at too great a distance, Brine, especial y to that you Sowe it presently after.

As for the Sand, you sand Ground withal, it must be Sea-Sand, if possible to be gotten ; but if the Ground lie so Inland, that it cannot be done without vast Trouble and Cost

Cost of Carriage, more than the Advantage may be supposed to recompense, dig up the saltest, loosest Sand, or Earth you can light on, and make that supply its place; the Saltness may be known, by trying it in Water: for a Quantity being steeped there, if it make the Water brackish, you may be assured it is proper for your use; also Wood-Ashes, Sea-coal Ashes, and Sutt, are extraordinary Manurers of Land, being scattered over them, or ploughed in, so that being wetted, they diffuse their Quality of Heat, to temporize with the Coldness of the Earth, and cherish what is Sowed. But as for Rye, it must not be wetted, for among all Grain it grows best with the least wet, and will, as the Country say, drown in the Hopper in a Rainy Day, yet where Saff, Ashes, Sutt, or Sea Sand, have been sprinkled and ploughed in, it will prosper very well on barren Ground so Manured; whereon you may Sowe Barley, Oats, Beans, Peas, Lupins, Fitches, &c.

As for Wheat, the wetter it's sowed, the more firmly it sticks in the Earth, takes Root and prospers.

C H A P. VIII.

To Dress and Manure barren Ground, over-run with Goss, Broom, Firs, Weeds, &c. relating to Ground dry and wet.

HAVING given some Insight into the Improvement of barren Ground, a thing exceeding necessary to be known in a great many parts of this Kingdom, I shall proceed in it to the other Particulars, and especially to the Filling and Dressing rough and barren Clays, encumbered or over-run with Goss, Broom, and such-like things, of Nature's Product, which hinders Land, by keeping it lean and out of Heart, from being easily brought to produce any thing else.

Now

Now I must suppose these kinds of Clayey Ground, whether simple or mixed, to lie a little lower than those before discoursed on, not so subject to heat, to burn up what grows on them in the scorching Summer, nor to nipping Frosts, to wither and blast in the Extremities of Winter; yet these Grounds, as they are, will neither properly bear Corn nor Grass. There is another sort of Ground, not differing in barrenness to this, viz. such as are infected with noysome Weeds, which cause Diseases in the Cattel feeding there, as likewise thick and overgrown with Eroom; for altho' these for Fuel, Thatching, or Covering of Out-Houses, &c. may be some advantage to the Husbandman, it makes nothing near a Recompence for the loss of so much Ground, as may be turned by a little Cost and Labour to good Improvement.

To destroy these Incumbrances, cut them as near as possible may be, to the Ground, then make them up in Bundles as big as Bavins, dry them first in the Sun, and then carry them home, and Stack them in a place where the Wet cannot fall upon them: for if it do, it will soon rot them; then stub up all the Roots you can find in the Ground, and lay them in little heaps to dry, after which they will become good Fuel; or burnt upon the Land, and the Ashes scattered, will much strenghten it, when soaked in by the Rain, or ploughed in the proper time; for this is about the latter end of April, and beginning of May.

Thus having thoroughly cleared the Ground, take the Refuse, with some Roots well dried, and pile them hollow, pile up Roots of Grass and Earth, and pile on them, leaving only a Vent, and then give Fire with Straw or Stubble, and the Earth keeping in the Smoak, and receiving it, will, as it were, burn with the Roots, and receive the Fatness, and be very mellow. This, in some Countries, is called burning of Bail; and when it is well burnt and cooled, with Shovels and Beetles break and disperse it over the Land, and it will be a very good Dung, or Manure; then with a very long Plough, breaking up the Ground, and by broad deep Furrows, lay it into Lands as large as you think the Nature of it will bear, higher or flatter,

flatter, according to the like conveniency, as it lies more or less subject to the Water, or overflowing of Neighbouring Brooks, Rivers, or great Ditches, or Waters occasioned from Showers descending from Hills, or higher Grounds: for these Inundations greatly hinder Fruitfulness, by chilling, or rotting the Corn, or other Grain, in the Ground, when sowed; so that if it spring up, it comes to no advantage.

But first of those Grounds that lie not within the Danger of Overflowsings, by reason of their height, and so of the rest in their Order. But to the purpose: The Bail burnt, cast abroad, and the Land broke up, then, if you can come by it, Salt it with Sea-Sand, after Lime it, as has been directed; or for want of Sea-Sand, scatter as you do Grain, Bay-Salt, mixed with other Sand; or fine fat Earth, well sifted from Stones and Rubbish. Then Manure it with such Dung as you have that may be proper to it, to give it a fertilizing Heat, as that of the Horse, Ox, or Kine, rotten Straw, Mud out of Ditches or Ponds, that is fat and slimy, the Sweeping of the House, Flowers, Mills, Barns, Yards, where Cattle trample much; and if you be near the Sea, there is an excellent Weed, called *Hemp-weed*, bearing broad Leaves, black, with great Heads, and twisted like Peas-straw, growing in great abundance among the Sea-Sedge, on many Coasts; with this, when gotten, you may strew over your Ground already ploughed, and plough it in with the rest of the Manure, and by rotting there, it will add heat and strength to the Land. Let this Ploughing be deeper than the first, with larger Furrows, that the new quick Earth so raised up, may mingle with the Manures Hack, and Harrow it again: then take Pidgeons, and Land-Poultres Dung, (for that of Water-Fowl is naught) and sprinkle over it, allowing, if you have it, two or three Bushels to an Acre, scattering it in as equal a proportion as you can, then sow your Wheat, or other Corn; and for this sort of Ground, at first Wheat is the most thriving, though it will bear other sorts of Grain, and with care, of a very barren and useless Ground, become useful and very advantageous to the Owner; it must likewise be clotted and slated; and if you want

want Salt-Sand, or Salt, steep your Wheat in Brine of any Salt, and it will produce a good Crop.

You must take care to Weed it, and gather the Stones before, that will obstruct the Corn from rising, and carry them into the Roads, or dry Ditches, or some Pit proper for them; for these Grounds are generally great Producers of Stones.

If Weeds, which commonly breed in wet barren Grounds, grow up to the hindrance of Seeding it, or that you would be at the Labour and Cost to bring it to fruitful Arable Ground, pluck them all up with your Hands, or Nippers of Wood, with Saw-teeth shooting one into another, to hold them the faster; lay them on heaps, dry them, and burn them, then scatter the Ashes on the Land, as before directed. Plough the Ground, but not so deep as the first, yet turn up the Furrows as deep as possible you can; and if it lie subject to Overflowsings, make cross Furrows and Drains into Ditches or Rivers, or low places, that the Water may descend, and be carried off as much as may be; if there be no Current, make a Pond at the lower end of it, which may receive the Water; but this will do but little, if it be much subject to Water-flowings, or Marsh Springs, and therefore if you would use it for Corn-Land, you must find a way to carry off the Water, or it will not avail your Labour and Cost in Manuring; Directions for which I shall have occasion to Treat of hereafter at large. As for the Manuring, it must be as the former, and so all the Particulars in Management, only you must at the Second Ploughing do it very deep, to hollow the Ground, that the Water may the better soak away, and lay the Lands in Ridges as high as you can, and the Furrows as deep.

C H A P. IX.

To Improve Barren Clay, Simple, or Compound, over-run with Whinnes, with the particular Ordering of it.

THere is another barren Clay, no matter which, either Simple or Compound, that is pestered and over-run with Whinnes, a short bushy, knotty, prickly thing, not growing above a handful from the Ground, yet entangling in one another, and spreading so fast, that they choke the Grass, and obstruct the Cattel from feeding, and the Grass kept thus down, will mostly die, and a mossy Scurf cover the Surface of the Earth: yet for this dangerous Incumbrance there is a Remedy, and this Ground I shall instruct the honest Farmer, how to bring to bear a good Crop:

To begin this Work, worthy your Cost and Labour, take a fine thin Paring-shovel, made of good tough Iron, and well steeled and hardened round about the Edge, and with it pare up the upper Swarth of the Ground, about an Inch and a half, or two Inches deep, turn up every Paring about three Foot in length, and as broad as the Shovel will conveniently do it, turn the Whinne, or Grassy side downward, and let it lie in the Sun two or three days to dry. *May*, for this Undertaking, is the proper Month, and being well dried on the Earthy side, turn it, and let that well dry, then gather it into heaps, and twist it as it were into Bands, or Cords, and lay it up round and hollow, that fire being put under the hollowness, may easily come at it to consume it, thrusting in to the great Cavity, which must be like an Oven, but much less combustible dry Matter for that purpose.

When these heaps are burnt, break them as Bail with Shovels and Beetles, so that the Earth may mix with the Ashes, then spread them on the Ground to an equal thickness.

ness, whilst they are hot and glowing, which will heat the Earth, and destroy the Fibres of the Roots that remain either of the Whinnes, or Weeds.

This being done, plough up the Ground in good long Furrows, hack it small with Hacking-Hoes, Manure it, and further order in all Particulars, as in the foregoing Directions for Goss, Furs, &c. Let the last Ploughing be very deep, especially your Furrows, and let your Harrows have Weights on them, to press the harder on the Ground, and turn up the remaining Roots of the Whinnes, which being dragged off dry, and burnt as the former, scattering the Ashes on the Land; and if the Harrow will not carry them to the Lands end, have some Boys or Girls to follow the Motion of it, and pick them up as they scatter, laying them on heaps in the Furrows, and when dry, bring them on the Ridges of the Land, and burn them; then sow your Corn mixed with Salt and Wood-ashes; and this Ground thus prepared will bear good Wheat in abundance, in the space of two or three Years, then sow Barley and Pease, and Beans a Year after the Oats; and lastly, it will be very good Meadow-Ground, or Pasture, for the space of three or four Years after, and then you must manure it again with a sufficient quantity of Soyl, and it will continue good Ground.

C H A P. X.

To Dress and Manure all Barren Clays, Simple or Compound, Incumbred or Overgrown with Heath or Ling.

TO bring this sort of Ground to bear tolerable Corn, or Grass, far exceeding the Charge, and what it would other ways do without it, you must with Scitches, or sharp Hooks, but old Scythes are the best; cut down all the Heath, or Ling, as close as you can, about the beginning of *May*, and let it lie on the Ground to dry, then spread

spread it over the Ground, and scatter dry Straw on it, and by setting it on Fire at the several Corners of the Field, in a moderate breathing Air, the Fires will encroach to one another, and meet in the Center, so scorching the Ground, it will kill the Weeds and Roots in a great measure; and the Ashes manure the Ground, then with a strong Plough, having broad Wings, Share, and an even Coulter, laying the Lands large, and the Furrows deep, not as yet troubling your selves to pick out the quick Roots, but let them lie in the Furrows, yet hack the Ground over, as has been often directed; and in this case, with your Hacks and Paring-shovels, when the Ground is dried, pare the Furrows, and where you see many Fibres of Roots, and lay the Parings to dry, then place them in little heaps near each other, in Rows, that so being hollowed up, and dried Heath put under them, they may burn Earth and all, which being full of Strings and Roots, will do so even to Ashes; and this being spread, is exceeding profitable for the Ground, and being ploughed in at the Second Ploughing, it kills the remaining Roots both of the Heath or Ling, and Weeds, if the Ground produce any, having Dunged, Limed, and Sanded it before.

When the Ground is thus Made and Manured, and the Wheat-Seed-time draws on, at the latter end of September or beginning of October, plough very deep at the Second Ploughing, even more than ever, so that there may be nothing of the first Furrows remaining, but the Ashes that are turned up, which being covered with Sand, Lime, or Manure, the Earth will lie very plain and level, so that there is a necessity of raising up new Furrows, and of new Hacking and Harrowing, which rendring the Earth light and a well mixing of all together, so that it may be capable of bearing very good Wheat, especially if Sheep have been Folded on it before, and Dunged well, which together with the Dung of Poultry, is an excellent Manure.

As for the Weeding and Cleansing the Ground when the Corn is sprung up, you must take great diligence; for though in this kind of Soil, Cockle, Darnel, and

Thistle

Thistle grow nor, yet hard and rough Weeds will spring up, of the worst kind; as, Twitchberries growing at both ends, Ling, Wild-Time, &c. pull these up by the Roots with your Nippers, as soon as they are pretty well peeped out of the Ground, so as to be discerned and layed fast hold on; for if they grow up to any height and bigness, in pulling them up much of the Roots of the Grain that grows about them will also come with them. As for other tender Weeds, if there be any, you may cut them off with your Hook; and if fine soft Grass grow up, you need not meddle with it, for it will keep the Corn warm, and nourish the Roots of it.

Now for the Profit of the Ground thus ordered. It is proper to bear Wheat plentifully for the three first Years, and the fourth good Barley, with the help of Sheep being folded on it, or a Manure of Poultry or Pigeon's Dung; and for three Years after very good Oats, and small Pease the eight Year. As for Beans, this Soil will hardly bear them at all; and to the eleventh Year it will prove good Meadow Land, though the Grass will be somewhat coarse, yet good wholsom feeding Grass as can be reasonably expected; nay, it will likewise fatten Cattel; tho' in this latter, a longer time is required than when they are put into finer Grass, where the Ground is mellow, and of a good natural Soil.

CHAP. XI.

Of Dressing, Ordering, Tilling, and Manuring Barren Sandy Ground, producing only short Mossie Grass.

HAVING discoursed, as I hope, to the Reader's Satisfaction, concerning barren Clay-Grounds; the next thing, as I conceive, to be treated of in a regular Method, is the Improvement of barren sandy Ground, a great deal of that kind, as well as the others, lying at this day wast in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

This kind of Ground is usually simple, without mixture; and though the Colours of the Sands may change, they are mostly the same, and very little to be distinguished in their Quality. There is a naughty barren cold Sand, lying on high, rocky, or stony places; or upon bleak Plains, exposed to the North and North-East Winds; or bordering on the Sea, bringing forth nothing but an unprofitable short mossie Grass, made bitter by the Sun; and when the cold Dews fall, it is of an unsavoury taste.

Now to improve this Ground to much Advantage; in the Advance of the Spring, with a strong Plough answerable to the Soil, yet somewhat less in the Iron-work and Timber than is necessary for Clay Ground; Plough it up of an indifferent Depth, yet not so deep as the Clay; lay your Furrows flat and close to one another, ploughing it very clean, and leaving no Baulks; but not so close, but you may lay the green Swarth to the quick or new ploughed Earth; or rather, turn one Swarth against another, so that the Furrows may lie, and only but touch the Edges one of another: When this is done, hack it into several pices, and let it lie for many Days in the Furrows, that the green Swarths heating one another may rot, which you may perceive they are about to do when they grow black. Though these sandy Grounds being easily crumbled, require not the Labour of the former; and therefore the main of the Hacking in this case is to cut the Swarth that it may rot; and it is only required in barren Sands, which have some roughness in them, and not in those that are very loose and fruitful.

When you have thus ordered your Ground, there is no way to be used contrary to the former, which is to Marle it. And now because this is a very hard Term to some, and not every-where in use, because not to be had, I shall declare what *Marle* is, before I proceed further:

This Marl is a certain rich stiff Clay, an Enemy to Weeds that spring up of themselves; and gives generative Virtue to all Seeds that are sown in the Ground. It is of a glewy Substance, and not fat or oily, as some suppose it: It is in Quality cold and dry, and was Earth be-

fore

fore it came to be Marle; and being made Marle, it is no more but a Clay Ground: As for this, when it is a little hardned, it is only dissolved by Frosts; and this is the Reason it always worketh better Effects the second Year than the first.

As for the Colours of the Marle, they are different; as, a White, a Russet, a Grey, a Yellow, and a Black, and some other Colours, yet all these may be reconciled; for the Colours may alter according to the strength of the Sun, and the Climate they are produced under.

This is so good a Manure, that well layed on it will enrich the barrenest of the Grounds for Ten Years, and some for Thirty. To find it, take an Auger-Wimble, made to hold many Bits, one longer than another, so wring them into the Ground, till you have tryed, by drawing the Earth in one place, then proceed in the most likely places, till you come to the Marle: And the most proper places to make this Essay is, in the lowest part of high Countries, near Brooks and Lakes; and in the high parts of Low Countries, upon the Knowls of little Hills, and in the Clefts of steep Banks, or Breaches in Hills, opening of themselves; in some places it lies deep, in some again shallow; and commonly these barren sandy Grounds are verged with it lying very deep.

Having found it, dig it up in great Lumps, and bring it to your Land with what speed you can; lay it on Heaps a yard Distance one from another, and when it is dried, spread all the Heaps, and mix the Marle with the Sand; and observe, if the Land ascend upon a Hill, to lay twice as much on the upper part as on the lower, because the Rain washing it, will carry the strength downward, so that it will fatten the Earth as it goes: And where Marle is wanting, Fullers Earth is an excellent Soil to supply the place of it; beat these with a Beetle, or Maul, as small as you can; and for this sort of barren Land, though in Clay it is nought, you may use Chalk or Lime stones, which much comfort it, strengthen and knit the Ground together. And having thus done, when Seed-time comes, plough it again deep, that the new-broke-up Earth may mix with the old, and lime it a little; for the Nature

of the Ground requires not so much of that as the Clay Ground.

This Ground will bear Wheat well, but is most attributed to Rye, which will grow on it in abundance. If you sow Wheat, steep it in Salt-Water; and for the other, mix a little Bay-Salt with it when you sow it. The Weeds this kind of Ground is most subject to, are Wild Harbottles, Chefsbeles, Gipsie-Flowers, and the like, which may be taken out by drawing up the Roots, or cutting off the Stalks close by the Ground.

The Ground thus ordered will bear Wheat or Rye three Years, and after that Barley with once ploughing, the fifth Year Oats, the sixth and seventh excellent Lupines, and then it will be good Pasture three or four years, after which you must dress it as before, to recover its Heat and Strength.

C H A P. XII.

Of Ordering and Dressing Barren Sand over-run with Heath, Fearn, Braken; and the Nature of the Soil, &c.

THis sort of Ground is more dry, loose, and harsh than the former; and to bring it to Fertility, mow down the incumbring Weeds as close as may be; and note, if they be high, it shews the Ground of some strength; but if low, weak and out of heart: Lay them thin, and turn the Weeds you mow down, that they may dry; and when they ruffle, that you may crumble them, bring your Plough, and turn up your Furrow, that it may lie flat to the Ground one green Swarth against another; then observe how broad your Furrow so turned up is, or the Ground so covered, and leave so much Space unploughed between Furrow and Furrow, so that there may be a green Baulk and a Furrow: And having gone over the Land in this manner, take a Paring Shovel

Shovel, and pare up the Furrows about two Inches thick, in pieces of three Foot in length; make them in little hollow Hills, about a Yard and a half distance one from another, till they are dried well in the Sun or Wind, and placing the Earthy part upwards, put dried Fern under them, and set them on fire; when that is done, and the Earthy part sufficiently parched, hack over the Furrows that are turned up, then beat and spread the Ashes and burnt Clumpers over the Ground, mixing it well with the Mould, then Marle it plentifully; which done, plough it over again very well, leaving nothing unturned up; and then the fresh Ground mixing with the rest, will augment to the strength of the Soil; and this Ploughing should properly be about the latter end of June.

The Ground thus dressed, Lime it a little; and this liming will much abate the growth of Weeds, or any other Incumbrance, its acute quality deadening the Roots; and above all, is a great Enemy to Thistles, which Fern Ground naturally alters into: After this, it requires a third ploughing very deep, and harrow it well; but my Advice is not for sowing Wheat on this sort of Ground, it not being proper for it, unless a little on the best part of it for the Supply of your Family, because it has not much more Strength than the Manure allows it; but it will bear excellent Rye the first three Years, and the fourth Barley; and three Years after tolerable good Oats; the eighth Year you may sow Fetches or Lupins; and for three Years after it will be tolerable good Grass, with a little Manure, of Dung or slimy fat Casting of Ditches or Ponds. You must after sowing harrow it well, and close it; for though it is Sand, the Marle and Lime will make it cling hard together.

The Weeds that after this are most likely to spring up with the Corn, are, Fern and Thistle, where the Lime had not strength to settle and destroy them. As soon as they appear, pull them up, and lay them on Heaps to rot and make Dung.

C H A P. XIII.

Of Ordering and Enriching Barren Lands, subject to Wild Briars, Twitches, and Bushes, &c.

THese Lands remaining in their Nature unprofitable, Art and Industry are required to render them advantageous to the Owners; and in the first place, cut up these Shrubs, or Under woods, as close to the Ground as may be; then stub up the Roots very clean, and they will in a manner recompense the Labour, in serving for Fencel, or mending Hedges; then with a pair of strong Harrows go over the Ground, and laying Weights on them, to press the harder on the Surface, tare up the Twitch-Briars that have escaped your sight, as also the rough Grass; till the bare Earth appear, unlading the Harrows as they are cloyed, and laying the Refuse up in Heaps on the sides of the Ground to dry; and then bring them on the Ground and burn them, spread the Ashes, and plough them in, leaving no part of the Ashes untouched with your Plough; hack it small, and let it be run over by Children, or others, at a small rate, to gather up all the remaining Fibres or Roots that appear above ground; burn them also, and scatter the Ashes on the Land.

To manure this sort of Ground: The best Manure, Experience approves of, is Horse or Ox-dung, Straw rotted in Stables or Cow-houses, with the Scouring of the Yard where Sinks come, and Cattel or Poultry trample, and likewise the scouring of muddy Ditches, Ponds, Brooks, Lakes, where there is fat Slime, which is known by Willows growing and thriving about them; mingle it with the first Manure, then harrow it even, and sow it; after that harrow it again well, and it will produce exceeding rich Maslin, or Mixture of one part Wheat and two of Rye; for then the Crop will be

more

more certain, and thrive the better, and this will hold for three Years; then sow Barley, after that Oats, and so go on, as in the precedent Chapter.

As for Weeding, you must do it as soon as you perceive the Weeds sprout up, pulling them up by the Roots, or they will be subject to grow again.

C H A P. XIV.

Of Ordering, Tilling, and Enriching Barren Lands, encumbered with Moors, or Moorish Long Grass, &c.

AS for this kind of Barren Sand, it is the worst, being moorish, blackish, with an ill Sent, bearing stinking long Grass, or Moss and Grass together, which no Beast, though hungry and hard fed, will meddle with; and these kind of Grounds are commonly full of Moors, and Boggy Wetness, in some places growing Moss and Grass, in others Rushes; which last is the best kind of Ground to manure, and are generally extremely moist and cold; and therefore when you enter upon manuring it, it must be drained, by making Cutters into Ditches, Brooks, or some Neighbouring River, with Sluces to let out the Water that is in, and keep out the Overflowings; which I shall more amply speak of, when I come to treat of Draining Fens and Marshes, Boggy Grounds, &c.

The Land being brought to a considerable Dryness, plough it up with a very strong Plough that may go very deep, laying before the Plough Reeds of Fetches, Pease-straw, or that of Lupins; turn the Furrows of Earth upon the Weeds, that they may be bruised under the Mold; and so order every Furrow, or most of them, and give the Earth time to rot the Straw; and if Rain fall not to rot it, stop the Sluce, that the Springs may overflow it,

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and

and then presently drain off again; then hack the Ground into small pieces, strow Lime upon it, and other Manure; and if you have any salt Sea-sand, sprinkle it likewise over it; then marle it, and lay on a small quantity of Chalk; and about the latter end of *June* make the second ploughing deeper than the first, that if any of the Straw remains unrotted, it may by the new acquirement of moist Earth the more speedily putrifie, break the Clots, and lay the Land even, without Clumpers or Weeds, or other Annoyance, and let it so continue till *October*; then plough it the third time, hack it, and sow it with the best Seed-Wheat; and though in itself it is the worst of Ground, yet by the help of the Soil and Compost, with the Wernefs that you may let in at pleasure, it will produce good Wheat for three Years, then sow it with Barley the next Year, helping it a little by Folding Sheep on it, and for two Years after it will bear Rye, and till nine Years Oats and Pease; then for three Years following it will be good Meadow and Pasture; after which time it must be dressed, and put in Heart, as before. As for the Incumbrance, the Corn will be subject to, it will be small Reed and Sedg, which you may weed out as soon as you see them well appear, either pulling them up with your wooden Nippers, or cutting them close with your Weed-hook, and they will not grow again.

CH A P. XV.

A Way in General to Enrich any poor Sand or Clay for Grain, with less Trouble and Cost than before.

THere are divers things that some, through Ignorance, regard not, that are very profitable for the manuring and enriching of Land, as Woollen Rags; and of these a Sack-full and a half is sufficient for dressing an Acre of Arable-Ground, being ground or chopped very small,

small, and spread an equal thickness over the Land before Fallowing-time; and then coming to fallow, let the Plough take them carefully into the Ground, and cover them; after this use Stirring, Soiling, Ridging, according to the Rule of good Husbandry in their proper Seasons.

When you come to Sow the Land thus ordered, to make the Seed prosper the better, steep it in thick slimy Water that drains from Dunghills; and if no such be to be had near-hand, steep Cow-dung in Water, and soak the Seed in it. Wheat will be well soaked in 18 Hours, Barley in 36, Pease in 12; Rye and Oats may be sowed dry, for they receive more Hurt than Advantage by wet; cover and order it as has been directed in other Cases, and fear not an extraordinary Encrease.

The Shavings or Wafts of Horn, or the Hoofs of Beasts, are extraordinary good to dress Land withal; scatter the Shaving to the like quantity as the Rags, and plough them in after the same manner; and these Manures will give a good Heart to the Ground for the space of five Years without any renewing.

The Hoofs of Cattle are approved for this, and may be got of Trotter-men and Tripe-men, &c. and these must be sliced, or cut small, and strewed on the Land as the Rags. Soap-ashes, when the Lye has been drained from them, is of excellent use to strengthen Land; beside the Advantage it has of killing Weeds and Insects that breed in the Ground, and eat up the Corn, being dried, beaten, and lightly scattered over.

The Hair of Beasts enriches Land, being strewed and ploughed in, and there let lie to rot. Also Mault-dust is much available, or the Excrements of Mault, allowing three Quarters of it to an Acre; and to enrich your Dung on the Lay-stall, is to throw often Beef-broth and other wast Broths upon it, as also Soap-suds; and in so doing one Load will be worth three of the same kind that is not so used: If you continue it long, the Blood and Garbage of Creatures much fattens Dung, and makes it of excellent use; and so does the Dregs of Oil, or the Pressings or Graves of the Whale, or any other Sea-fish:

So that by what I have directed much greater Improvement might be made than is at present.

If you would enrich Barren Woody Land newly stubbed for Encrease of Corn, take the Underwoods or Sprays, place them in a great hollow Heap, and cover them with the Turfs or Swards you pare up, Ear h and all: then put Fire to the Wood till all be well burnt, break the Earth, and spread it over the Ground, mingled with the Ashes of the Wood; spread it a second time with the Ashes of Fern, Strubble, Straw, or the like, and lettin^g it rest a while, plough it, and soil it at the beginning of *October*; and ploughing it a second time, sow it with Rye the first Crop, and it will bear it very plentifully; the next may be Wheat, the third Barley, the fourth Lupins, or any other Pulse, and then proceed to sow it with Wheat again, and this Land will last in good Heart for eight or nine Years, and longer, where there is any natural Fertility in the Soil, as has to good advantage been experienced in many woody parts of *England*.

CHAP. XVI.

To reduce Grounds to Fertility that have been spoiled by Salt-Water, or Overflowing of Sea-Breaches.

THis is a very difficult Point; for though Salt-water or Salt-sand moderately used on Ground, gives it Heat and Vigour, yet Excess imbitters and utterly wasts the Strength of it, eating and spoiling the Roots of Grass Trees, or any thing of natural Growth; and therefore the Salt-water being drawn off, and stayed from any more flowing in, the Ground by lying low is capable of having fresh Water brought upon it from higher places, which lying sometime, will take out the Saltness of the Earth the other left behind it to a great degree; it need not exceed above four or six Inches on the Surface,

face, if the Land be level; let it lie two or three days, and then by the help of Ditches or Sluces drain it away, or by the help of Engins, which I shall have particular occasion to speak of, it may be thrown off into convenient places; as, over the Banks into the Sea, if it be near; or on other waste Ground, where it may dry up; and between whiles flow it often, till the fresh Water has in a great measure taken the Saltness out of the Earth.

The Ground being drained and pretty dry, about the latter end of *March* plough it up as deep as well you can, turn up a large Furrow, and laying it into Lands, raise them up as much as you can, lay them round, and observe if they be simple or mixed; if it be Sand, whether red or brown; then take such clear Earth as is free from the Washings of the Salt Water, being of a small and mean Stiffness and Richness, digged out of some Pits or Banks where the least Misch or Spoil may be made; lay it in little Heaps, and spread it over the Land; and when dry, clot it, and break it as fine as possible; and this Earth will suck and draw the Salt into it, taking off much of the evil quality in the sandy Ground, and also refining the Sand, makes it apt for Fruitfulness.

If this Ground damaged by Salt Water be rough, hard, gravelly Earth, then spread in like manner the best and richest Clay that can be had, or for want of that blue Marle, which will not only suck up the Saltness, but cool and much refresh the Ground, adding new Nourishment, whereby the Seed that is cast in will be fed and nourished. But if the spoiled Earth be a tough stiff Clay, though seldom found so near the Overflowings of Salt Water, cover it over with the finest fresh Sand, which will separate the Sand from the Clay, and take away the naughty Stiffness of it, that will otherwise oppose the rising of the tender Sprouts; it will also give a gentle Warmth, and abate the Coldness of the Clay, and make it bring forth plentifully.

If it be a mixed Earth, observe whether it be binding or loose; if the former, Sand it as before; if the latter, spread it with the richest Clay you can get: When you have thus ordered your Land, plough it a second time

before

before Midsummer, so that the new-layed Earth may be well mixed with the old; then take the Mud of dried bottoms of Lakes, Ponds, or Ditches, of Waters that were fresh, or Woollen Rags chopped small, or with both together; cover it over lightly, then immediately plough it Land after Land, left by long lying the Sun attracts the strength out of the Manure; then let it rest till *Michaelmas*, and so give it the last ploughing, and sow it with the hardest and largest Wheat; and for this Land, that which is called the *White Pollard* is the best; and if the Salt Water be kept out, you will have a very good Crop; the second Year sow it with very good Hemp-seed, and it will prove very gainful; the next Year lay it flat for Oats, and then lay it down, and it will prove good Meadow or Pasture: However, the first Year after laying down let Sheep graze on it, whose cropping it and Dung will fertilize it, and then you may use it as you please; either keep it for Grazing, (for it will produce extraordinary good Grass) or for Meadow; and in a few Years you may plough it again to produce good Corn, especially Wheat; for by this time the Saltness is very much taken out of it. And thus you may reduce all sorts of Ground overflowed by Salt Water, where there are no Salt Water Springs to feed and float it; for if there be, and they cannot be drained, turned away, or otherwise remedied, your Labour is lost. Where fresh Water cannot be brought on these Grounds to float them, add to your former Manure Moorish Earth, the Soil of Streets and High-ways, the Earth dug up where Dunghills have lain a considerable time, Rubbish and Sweepings of the House, Barns or Yard; and having spread them on the Land, take a large Hawthorn-bush, rough and prickly, plash other Bushes and fasten to it. To make it lie flat and pressing on the Ground, tye on the upper part of it wooden Rowers, and lay other Weights on it to fasten it to the Horses Drawing-geer by the Stem or great Stalk, and draw it over the Ground in the nature of a Harrow, to break all the Clumpers, and lay the Earth very smooth after every ploughing; then sprinkle Soap-Ashes moderately on it, and it will lose its Saltness in a little time, and

and become good producing Ground, either of Corn, Meadow, or Pasture.

CHAP. XVII.

Good Pasture and Meadow to be made of Barren Soil, of any sort of Earth, simple or mixed.

WAYS of enriching the Earth are two-fold, viz. By Water and Manure; and for this use the lower the Ground lies, so it be subject to Overflowings or much Wet, it is the better, and is sooner made good, and brought to Profit. Then consider what sort of Grass it naturally produces, whether clean and entire, or mixed with that of worse growth; and of these the first is most promising; and if the Growth be intermixed with Thistle, Broom, or the like, or burthened with offensive Weeds; grub and pluck them up by the Roots, clearing the Ground of them as well as you can; dry them, mix them with Straw, and burn them upon the Swarth of the Ground, and spread the Ashes; then fold your Sheep upon the Ground for several Nights, that their Dung may strengthen it, and their Feet trample up the Grass; then scatter it over with good Hay-Seeds, and go over them with a Rower, or beat them with a flat Shovel, that they may be the better pressed into the Ground to take Root; then over these scatter Hay, or the Rotting of Hay under the Stacks, or the Sweepings of the Barn, or moist Bottoms of any Hay that has been good, and is moist, and of no other use; then spread on your Manure as Horse-dung, Man's Ordure, or the Dung of any Beast; and being thinned, and the Clots well broken, let it lie till the new Grass springs through it; and the first Year do not graze it, lest, not having taken very good Root, the Cattel tread it up, but mow it while it come to Perfection: And although the first Year it may prove short and coarse, yet the second it will be fine and very

very long, and in great Plenty; and once in twenty, or more, Years Dressing, will continue it for good Meadow or Pasture, if in dry Seasons you have Water to relieve it, which may be gathered by bringing Springs, or the violent Fallings of Rains, into a Ditch, on the other side of it; or by any other Conveniency, according to the Situation of the Ground on the ascending part, to overflow it so long, that it soak deeper than the Roots of the Grass, to continue Moisture for the Nourishment of it a considerable time.

The best Season in general for watering Meadows, is from the beginning of *November* to the end of *April*; and the muddier or more troubled the Water is, the better; for then it brings a Soil upon the Ground, and this is properly after hasty Showers, and great Fluxes of Rain; and you may make a Conveniency, if you have many Fields lying together, especially in a Descent, to pen up the Water in one till very well soaked, and then by a Sluce or breaking down of a Dam let it into the next, and so by a small addition of Water transmit it to many. This may be done likewise after Mowing in drowthy Weather; or if you Graze the Land, it may be done at any convenient time.

C. H. A. P. XVIII.

Several Useful Engins described for the Watering of Meadow, Pasture, &c.

There is great Advantage to be found in watering of Lands on several occasions, as the Nature of them, or the Climate they lie in, requires; but then there is some Difficulty in doing it, where the Conveniency of Rivers and Land-floods are wanting, and without the help of Engins, many times exceeding Toil and Labour is required; which induces me to describe some of the most material. And first,

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The *Persian Wheel*, so named from its Use, and the great Advantage it brings to the Kingdom of *Persia* on this occasion. This Wheel is made after the manner of an Undershot Mill, viz. with a double Ring, into which two Pins pass, and on them the Floats are fastned, which Floats are to be hollow, and the half most remote from the Wheel holds the Water taken in at the open place about the middle of the back of the Float; and as the Wheel turns, so the Water is raised by degrees, and tends towards the part of the Float that is next to the Wheel; and as it surmounts the Receiver, the Water empties into it, one Float succeeding the other; so that at one turning round of the Wheel 30 Gallons of Water may be delivered. This Wheel ought to be about 15 Foot Diameter, and the Floats at 18 Inches distance, and so it will deliver the Water at about 10, 11, or 12 Foot above the Stream it takes it from, and may be carried four times round in a Minute; so that in one Hour it will distribute about 120 Hogsheads of Water, with 12 or 18 Inches penning or stopping; but an ordinary Current of Water, will very well water about 30 or 40 Acres of Land, according as it may lie disposed to receive as to Level or Descent.

When you do this, consider the Nature of your Land: If it be a cold Clay, too much Water injures it; if light, warm, or sandy, then a little Water greatly refreshes it. It is also to be observed, that this Motion well set a going is constant, and will last some Years with little Charge of Repairing; and the slower it moves, the better it delivers the Water, and a small Stream will carry it. It may also be used in Draining of Lands, if a Current can be made to carry the Wheel about; and as the Land lies higher or lower, so lesser or greater Wheels may be used; and they will exceedingly superabound the Charge and Trouble, by making of Grass grow in great Plenty, where otherwise little or none would appear; and by Troughs or Trenches the Water may be carried from one Ground to another a very great Distance, if not hindered by steep Ascents.

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There is another sort of an Engin used, which is called a *Wind Engin*, and may be used on still Waters, where there is no Current to carry the Wheel about, or a Dam cannot be conveniently made to force it; and this serves indifferently for watering or drawing. Several have been the Inventions of Ingenious Men to accomplish this; some have designed it by Horizontal Windmills, and by a Wheel, with Scoops or Buckets fixed to Chains; also by a Wheel carrying up the Water in Buckets fixed thereto, and by the Swiftness of the Motion casting it a great way forcibly from it. But that I most approve on, as the best and least chargeable, is the Vertical Sails, like the ordinary Windmills, only they are not so long, though more in number, placed in an Axis of a length proportionable to the length of the Veins, the one end resting on the moveable hollow piece of Timber that is to move round over the Pump, as you have occasion to turn the Reins, the other resting on a Semicircle, in which there are several Notches and Stays, that it may be placed as you please: So let the Wind stand any way, yet by the Motion of the Semicircle you may have it at one end of the Veins or the other; and let the Pump on which the one end of the Axis rests, be placed over the place you are to draw your Water out of, at the Nose or Mouth, at such a height as is convenient to convey it into a Trough; and this Pump may be made of a Diameter, according to the strength of the Windmill; and observe so to order the Bucket, that it may always dip into the Level of the Water, which prevents much Injury and Trouble to the Work. This Pump may be round or square, according to the smallness or largeness of it. Let the Handles of the Pump extend in length to the Axis of the Windmill, which must, to receive and move the same, be made crooked, like the Axis of a *Cutter's Grinding-stone*, or *Dutch Spinning-wheel* turned with the Foot; or the end of the Axis of the Windmill may rest upon a Cylinder or Box made moveable on the top of the Pump, with the crooked Neck or End within the Cylinder; so that when it is turned any way, the end of the Axis is perpendicular over the Pump. And, moreover, you must

take

take care that the Handle or Rod of your Bucket may turn Swivel-wise, to answer the Shiftings of the Wind as the Sails are changed; and these kind of Mills are of excellent use, and to be made or manured at a small rate, and are easily to be repaired when out of order, or taken to pieces, and removed from one place to another, carrying off abundance of Water, if kept in continual Motion, which a scanty Wind will do.

C H A P. XIX.

Further Rules and Directions for Watering Meadow and Pasture, for the Improving and Fertilizing of it.

HAVING spoken of conveying Water to the Ground, I now come to direct how it ought to be dispersed on it: The Water being raised to the height you desire, cut your main Carriage, allowing it a convenient Descent, that it may have a good Current all along; and let the Mouth of it be of Breadth rather than Depth, capable to receive the whole Stream you desire; and when you are to use a part of the Water, let the main Carriage narrow by degrees, that at the end it may press the more forcibly into the lesser Carriages that issue all along from it; and at every rising Ground, and other proper Distance, you ought to cut small tapering Carriages, proportionable to the Distance and Quantity of the Land or Water you design to fructifie, which must be very shallow, and many in number; for the Water running shallow and swiftly over the Grass, greatly revives it. In the next place observe, that in drawing or watering of Lands you may make Drains to carry off all the Water, the Carriages being on; and therefore they must bear some Proportion to it, though not so large; and as the Water is conducted by the lesser Carriages to every part of the Land, so the lesser Drains must be made in the lowest

lowest places to lead the Water off; and as the Carriages lessen, so must they widen as they run to drain the Water well off, as soon as the Land is well soaked into other Grounds; for if Water be left in low places, it proves very injurious to the Grass in the Winter, it kills it, and in the Spring and Summer much hinders its growth, breeding Rushes and Weeds, though when drained produces good Pasture.

If you water droughty Land in the Heat of Summer, do it in the Night, or a very cloudy temperate Day, taking it off again before the Sun-beams shine hot upon it, lest that conspiring with the Heat that comes out of the Earth, deaden or sicken the Roots of the Grass, so as it wither and flag, rather than grow to any great Advantage.

In some places, for the more ease of Watering, you may have the opportunity to command a small Stream or Spring, and to bring it down by Carriages upon the Lands, and proportion them, small or great, according to the quantity of Water you can give; and if it be little from drilling Springs, make Stops in the Carriages, that it may water one Land first, and then by the Drains convey it to that which lyeth lower; and so by degrees to all, as Convenience will admit; and the small Springs in constantly working will bring much Improvement.

As for Springs that produce a hard harsh Water, proceeding from Alomy, Vitrioline, and Coal Mines, or Minerals, it is not to be brought on Lands, unless for the destroying of Rushes and Weeds; and afterward the Acrimony taken off by mollifying Waters, or well dunging with fat and nourishing Soil, to amend the Barrenness, and produce store of Grass.

C H A P. XX.

The proper way effectually to Drain Land, and reduce it to Fertility, either Arable or Pasture.

WHEN Land is much incumbered by Water, and thereby rendered as it were useless, especially where there is a Superfluity of venomous corrupting Water lying in the Earth, much occasioning Bogginess, you may nevertheless consider, that this Land, with some Labour and Cost, may be brought to be very good; and in order to the procuring of it to be so, I shall lay down plain Rules and Directions:

Take special Care in draining such Grounds, especially where there are feeding Springs; and observe in this case the Descent, that you may the better by the Drain take away all the Water from the bottom, or else it will be of little Value; therefore observe the lowest Level of your Drain, and so low that you may draw off your Water, and not any lower can you carry it away by this means; therefore be especially careful herein; and then if you can get a lower Descent from this, carry your Drain upon the Level, till you find certainly you are got under the Moisture, Miryness and Water, that either feeds the Bogs, or covers the Land, and go a Spade's Graft, or thereabouts, deeper, and so you need not tye your self to a dead Level; but as the Moisture lieth higher, or Ground rises, so may you rise in the working your Drain, keeping one Spades Graft under it.

Observe, that in cold Rushy Lands this kind of Water that creates much Barrenness, is found beneath the first and second Swarth of the Land, and beneath that you most frequently find a little Gravel or Stonyness, in which this Water is; and sometimes below these, in a hungry Gravel; but it usually lies deeper in boggy Land than in Rushy, and a Spades Graft you must go deeper than

than the bottom of these. As for the Matter causing the Bog, it is easie to be discover'd, sometimes lying within two Foot of the Superficial part of the Ground, and usually within three or four; though some lie far deeper, as six and eight, or more; and having found this Spring that would willingly break out, were it not incumbered by the Load of Earth it is forced to wheeze through, and break its way by much spreading, dig a Foot beneath it, give it a Current in the Drain; and if it be swift, it will suck all the other Springs to it, and make the boggy Spunginess of the Ground to cease, so that in a little time a Driness will insue.

Make your Drain from the bottom of the Bog, trenching it in the sound Ground, or else in some low Ditch, so low as you conceive it under the Spring, or Spewing-Water; then carry up the Trench into the boggy Streight through the middle of it, one Foot under that Spewing-Water or Spring upon the Level, unless it rises higher; for many times it rises as the Land rises, and at other times riseth very level, even to the Head of the Bog, into which you must carry your Drain, or within two or three Yards of the Head of it; then at the Head strike another Trench overthwart both ways at the middle Trench, as far as the Bog goeth, all along the End of it, continuing at least one Foot under it; and this may work a strange Alteration in the Ground, without any more Trenching.

Or to work it somewhat more certainly, consider after you have brought a Trench to the bottom of the Bog, then cut a substantial Trench about it, according to the Dimension of the Bog, whether round, square, or long, or three or four Yards within the boggy Ground; for so far it will drain well that which you leave without the Trench, underneath the Spring-Water Round; and when you have so done, make one Work or two overthwart it, upwards and downwards, all under the matter of the Bog, and in a Year at furthest your Desire will be answered.

C H A P. XXI.

To Drain Fenny and Marshy Lands with the least Charge, and most effectually, &c.

Fenny and Marshy Ground is another thing to be considered, and great Advantages to be raised by well draining them, so that they may be converted to Pasture, Meadow, or Arable Ground; for of this Land a vast deal in the Kingdom lies waste, and turns to no Advantage, unless to a very few, and that inconsiderable; but to do this, it is not only taking away the Water from the Surface, or over part of the Turf or Swarth; for then might all Quagmires and Bogs be easily recovered; nor is it taking off the Downfalls, as the Fen-men call them; for then that might be easily done, and yet no perfect Draining for continuance; no nor the Land-falls, Land-floods, nor great Waters from off the Ground; nor doing all these in a way or usual customary manner, that may deserve the right and proper Name of Effectual Draining.

You must then to do it go to the bottom of the Cause, if you would perform the Cure, and take away that which is the Source, and feeds the Fen or Moor, making it barren and useless by corrupt and unwholsom Waters; and when that is done, it may be properly said to be a Perfect Draining, and not before; yet the other is not to be discommended nor discouraged, where they are already done, or may be made hereafter; but the Perfection is, in reducing it to Soundness or Perfectness of Mould, that the Wet may not follow the Plough; or it only bearing coarse Grass in the Summer, be overflowed in the Winter; but this is well done, whether the Earth is Sand, Clay, Gravel, or mixed Earth, when it returns to a perfect Swarth, pure Turf, producing the small Thistle, Crowflower, Clover and Honeysuckle; then is the Quintessence of the Earth properly prepared; and in feeding

feeding and corning they will naturally return to be the richest of all your Lands, as appears by many already brought to this Perfection lying near Rivers, and under the Level of the Sea; and most of the Ground in *Wol-land* has been improved this way, to a considerable enriching of those People by fat Pastures and good Arable Lands.

But waving some Objections that may be made to no purpose, by such as are not desirous such publick Works should go forward, because perhaps they have a Cow, a Horse, or a few Sheep to feed as Commoners, which can graze sufficiently about the Edges of these overflowed Lands, I shall come to the Point, and give an Essay of this matter, which, well put in practice, may turn to great Advantage.

Consider then, that the greater the Overflowing is, the heavier it lies on the Land; and for the passing off these the Water-cuts and Works must be proportionable, and the Labourers in it the more; for this Work must be done speedily, a little neglect setting it frequently a great way backwards, if the Works be considerable; and therefore going about this necessary Improvement, raise such Banks on the outsides of the Fens, as may keep out the Land-Floods coming from higher Grounds and Ditches to carry them away on the outside into some adjacent River or Water-course that carries them to the Sea, or some convenient River; by which means you may have nothing to do with any thing but the proper Water in the Fens; then consider how to draw your middle Trench, which is the main, to the best Advantage, that the Waters may pass from others into it.

Take notice of the Advantage of the Ground in all its Particulars, as to its ascending and descending, its Level and Hollow; so that having truly cast every thing well in your Mind, drain the Water off by Trenches or Engines that will cast it a pretty way in great abundance from the lower parts that lie beneath the Level; also by the help of Men, where they are to be had, with Scoops and Buckets.

When

When a Driness appears on the Surface, and it is visible, yet there are some Springs, search for them; and when you have found them, do in all respects as by the boggy Ground mentioned in the foregoing Chapter; and as for the smaller Hollows, if they dry not, it matters not greatly; if they have no Springs in them to cause an Overflowing in Winter, for they will serve to Water and Bathe your Cattle in the Heat of Summer, or produce a numerous Fry of Fish for storing other Ponds: As likewise keep Game there, to your Advantage, by alluring the Wild-Ducks, Geese, and other Water-Fowl, of which considerable Advantage may be made; but be very careful after this, that your outward Banks break not, to let in the Land-Floods from the Hills or high Grounds.

If the Trenches are necessarily to be many, endangering your Cattle falling into them, you may fill the smaller that come from the Springs, to the greater, with Pebbles and Flint about two Foot, laying them as light as you can, and over them Flags, Rushes, and Turf, and upon them Earth to the Level, and the Water will find a Passage among the Stones as in a Vault.

C H A P. XXII.

Tools and Instruments proper and useful in the working part, and order of Draining Land, &c.

THE first thing necessary is a good-Line, about 32 Yards in length, made of the best Water-wrought Hemp, about double the thickness of Whipcord, and a Hand-Reel to wind it on, that you may draw your Works by it as near unto the Streightness of the Line as possible; and by the Length you may measure your Work by the Rod or Pearch, to know how it goes on.

You

You must also have an exact Water-level near, or altogether 5 Foot in length; which Instrument many have essayed, and made some open, with a Channel for the Water to run all along upon a three Inch Board, with Sights true to the Water, placed at each end, each at a just Proportion from the Water to direct the Level; but it lies so open to the Wind, and is so troublesome in removing, that I approve not of it: Then make one for the more easie Carriage and true Performance of this Work to fold into another square Staff, about 5 Foot, or 5 and a half, made of the best young seasoned Oak, the Level or Barrel 4 Foot and a half, which Barrel in the midst of it is to be planted into the top of the Staff, and so much of the one part of the Staff, and just half the length of the Barrel take away with a Rabuting-Plane or Moulding, till both join together, and with these Joints make one complete straight Staff and formable, only about a quarter of an Inch taper upwards, from the bottom to the top, that it may not be too heavy; and the Sights are to be fixed into both ends of the Level-Barrel, that so they may stand firm and hold Water, and yet become very little Annoyance either to Sight or Practice; and in carrying it, is a straight Staff, with a strong Pike in the bottom of it to stick into the Ground when they use it not; and in Exercise being unfolded, not much unlike a Surveyor's Cross-Staff.

The next useful thing in this Work, is a Trenching Plough and Coulter, whose particular Use is to cut the Trench on both sides with great Expedition. To make this, take a piece of tough Willow Timber, about the bigness of a Spades Stalk somewhat straight, only at the nether end it must look a little up, with a Neck like a Foot to run on the Ground, and just above the Neck must be placed a little Coulter, to shear or cut the Ground, first on one side the Trench and then on the other; and where this Coulter is wedged in, the Stalk must be planted with Iron to hold it the firmer; and having cast your Trench by Line, then use this to cut out the sides of the Trench, which it will do almost as fast as a Man can follow it, cutting it out to the end by running along the

Line

Line; and when one side is done, place it to the other, and do it in the same manner; and this is called the plain Trenching-Plough. But if you would have this done with more exactness, then place in the Foot of the Staff, and in the middle of the Foot, a little Brazen Wheel, about 4 Inches high, that the Foot, bearing itself lightly on the Wheel, may bear itself with more ease: but this Wheel must be well planted in the Foot, upon Plates, and a little Iron Axle-tree; and these you may use to cut Turf overthwart, and Trenches 18 or 20 Inches broad, or such a proportion as is required to carry off the Water. And this Turf and Earth taken up by a trenching-Spade, will be of good use to Swarth bare Ground, or fill up low Places.

The turning-Spade must be made with a Bitt, looking up twice so much as is requisite for an ordinary Spade, with a fine thin Shooing also, looking up the Bitt of it, very well Sreeled, and more broad at the Point, or nether-end of the Bitt, than at the over-end by half an Inch; so that by this means, it will take up Turf all of one thickness, just at a Natural height as a Man stands when he usually shovels: and one of the same Form, a little less, may be used with Advantage in cleansing the bottom of Trenches, and are very useful in Banking, and Levelling high Ant-hills.

The trenching Spade, is another Instrument very useful in this great Work, which ought to be between 4 or 5 Inches broad. The Tree must be made more of Compass, and looking up by far than your ordinary Spades; so that it may carry a Trench level in a direct Line, move by the strength of Arm, and guided by the bottom of the Belly. The Spade Shooe must be made with two Sides, or Langers, up from the end of the Bitt, as if two broad knife blades were placed on a common Spade, to look upward with their Points from the end of your Spade Bitt, but they must be made a little stronger, yet not above 2 Inches broad; at the very Bitt, as thin as the Work will bear, and narrower and narrower upwards, till it come to half an Inch, and 5 Inches long, made very true and exact, sharp and smooth, or it will not work forth its Course, and

D

Narrow

Furrow clearly and easily, but exceed the strength of Man to manage it, in making good Work.

This Tool cuts out its Furrow, and Coar so well, that within a Week, if your turn be served, you may lay down again in the same evenness, and it will be no way prejudicial to the Grass; and when it is a little settled, will become of its former evenness with the other Ground.

The paring-Spade is another Tool useful in this Work. The Bitt of this may be made all of Iron, being a strong Iron Plate, having a convenient Socket to put a straight Helve, or Stale into, that it may be fastened, not easily come forth again, but when you please: The Bitt must be made 20 Inches long, the nether-end, and two sides, well steeled; the nether-part of the Bitt a little bellied, or squared, and the sides a little compassed, or hollowed, and the sides, and end, as sharp as they can be made for the proper use of it is, now and then, to cut a Trench in Valleys and low Places, where the trenching-Plough, either Wheel'd or Plain, cannot conveniently come at it, yet principally to pare off Trenches after the first Year, whose Edges will grow so thick with Grass, that the Water, as to its Currency in passing, will be obstructed, and to dig it, will break the Trench, and cut it too thick, but with this, as with a cutting-Knife, you may take it all along the Trench Line.

The trenching-Gauge is another Instrument, made like a long Shovel, with a sharp Shoe semicircled at the end, the Stale a little bending upward; and this is to be used like the trenching-Spade, in a round bottomed Trench.

CHAP

C H A P. XXIII.

The best way to Improve Drained Fen-Lands to great Advantage, &c.

HAVING already given Directions for Draining, and how to procure Materials in order to perfect so necessary a Work; it will be proper now for me to speak something of the Advantages accruing thereby.

As for that which is mostly dry Fen-land, and sometimes but partly under Water, and that not always, I consider it according to the quality of the Soil, to be the best capable of raising present Profit; and if you have enough other Ground for Grazing and Meadow, you may Plough it up, and it will prove excellent Hemp, and Oad-land, produce great Crops of Cole, and Rape-seed, which will indeed, grow on worse Land; so that by a little Marling, Liming, Ashing and Dunging, you may Improve it to bear excellent Wheat, Barley, or Rye, ordering it as has been directed for Barren-land, upon the Account of those sorts of Grain.

There is a Second sort, subject only to be drowned by up-Land Floods, and great Rains, and dry when they are gone, or in a dry Season; this I count worse than the former, and is proper to be Ploughed up, raising it as high as your Drains will carry off the Water: in the Lands 3 Yards over, that will bear two Casts of Seed, changing your Furrows in Ploughing, to stir up the Mould the better, that the Water may soak out of it into the drain-Furrows; and be careful not to make your last Furrow always in one place.

As for the Manuring it, let it be with Lime, Chalk, Ashes, hot Dungs, as Horse-dung, Cow-dung, or the like; so in the usual Plowing, it will bear excellent Wheat, Oats, Pease, and hold good so for three Years; but over Ploughing this kind of Land, takes the Heart out of it, therefore

Arable, Pasture, and

I conclude it the most convenient, after three Years Sowing, to lay it down for Meadow or Pasture; or a fourth Year you may Sow it with Clover, though it will bear Corn much longer, but not a considerable Crop, till it has rested two or three Years to recover its Spirits; and when you lay it down, scatter it lightly over with good Hay-seeds.

The Third sort of this kind of Land, is that which lyeth very low, and deep, and has been long under Water, before recovered, that it was turned to Turf, or Bog, very little useful, except two or three Months in the Summer, and that in a very dry Season, and this, as it is naturally, is not good for the feed of Cattle, rendring them lean, and unsound; therefore when drained, to bring it to a better State, pare off the Haddock, and rough Turf, the Roots, Strings and all, and lay them a drying, conveniently hollowed about the beginning of May; so that when it is turned and dryed well with dry Fuel, set it on Fire; and when it is turned and dryed well, burn it, that the Earth may crumble lightly, and scatter Earth and Ashes over the Land; then Plough it up, and divide your Lands into such Ridges, and Proportions as the Drain will bear; and so it will be fit to take the Impression of any proper Seed, and especially Cole-seed, or any Grain, if you lay your Lands sound and warm, and not Plough them too long; and when you lay it down, let it be either upon Oat-stubble, which will swarth it well the first or second Year, or upon Wheat, or Rye-stubble, harrowing and smoothing the Land, and then it will be well covered the first Year: And, if any of these Lands have been recovered from the breaches of the Sea, or overflowings of Salt water, you must flow them moderately with fresh Water, to take out the Saltness; Marle them well, if Sandy, and lay on some heartning Soil; keep the Trenches you have made strong, if they be new Works, turning them well to the Sea-ward, that the Waves may not, by their bearing, work in, and wear away the Earth: for when they are well sealed, if they break, admit of holes, or eatings in, is a sign the Sea is undermining your Work to ruin it; and therefore it requires speedy Reparation. These Lands

Wood-Land Improved.

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well manured, will bear most sorts of Grain, and in a little time very good Pasture or Meadow.

C H A P. XXIV.

Discoveries of Abuses in Ploughing, and how to Remedy them, &c.

AS in all other things there are some Defects, so especially in Ploughing, which cause some to blame the Soil, when themselves are in fault; therefore I shall endeavour to Rectifie some Abuses herein.

In the First place then for true Ploughing; The Plough should be rather made to be suited to the Irons, than the Irons to the Plough; for if the Plough-irons be not made exceeding true in all points, according to the Land designed to be ploughed, and wrought fair and smoorh, the Plow-wright cannot work true to a false foundation, and if not wrought true, it will rarely go true, unless after much wearing, being wrought into work, it may plough, at last, reasonably well, but by that time it will perhaps, be in a manner worn out, but never with that continuance and ease as if it were of true workmanship; another defect is, in not well steeling the Irons, and making them sharp and well pointed.

In the Second place, He that works a Plough according to the Rule he has only learned by Trade, not knowing how to hold a Plough, nor to apply himself to the nature of the Land, or, according to the alteration of it, may scarcely be able to discern the falsity of the Smith's workmanship, or un-used to all sorts of Lands, and the several kinds of Tilths the Plow-man gives, his Rule cannot be certain; and therefore if he makes a true Plough, he must rather hit on it by guess, than infallibility.

Thirdly, There may be abuse in him that holds the Plough, if he be not of ability to order it, to fix and alter the Irons, and the Plough also, if occasion requires, &c.

according to the divers natures of the Land he plougheth, and to the manner of his ploughing, and keep the Irons in a keen, and true posture; for at sometimes he is to throw down his Land, and at other times to raise it up, sometimes to go up Hill, and at others down Hill, and then again upon level ground: and in these cases, if the Plough be true, and the Plow-holder unskilful, there is a great defect, and many good Ploughs are utterly spoiled in the mis-usage.

Fourthly, Consider that all Ploughs are not to go in all Seasons, nor upon all sorts of Lands; therefore must they be chosen suitable to wet and dry, tough and loose Lands, or the Cattle may be spoiled, the Man toiled, and the Plough spoiled, and yourself disappointed in the well ploughing of the Ground; therefore for the discovery and rectifying these Abuses.

First, As to the Smith, and his truth of workmanship, they principally lye in the three Materials of the Plough. 1. The Share. 2. The Coulter. 3. The Breast-plate, or Shield; or, as some call them, Shivers. All which being made true, and according to the natural cast of the Furrow, so that the Earth sticks not upon the Plough, but the Irons wear bright, and clean, it is a proper sign of the truth of workmanship on his part. Then to describe these, If it be a Share made with a Pan to put on a wooden head, then it must be made deeper than the ordinary Share, but in breadth the Pan must not be too large, or wide, and the Plain made broad, whelming, or descending to the right Hand: and in this case, there are these two Advantages, the deeper the Pan is, the thicker and stronger may the head be put on, and it will last the longer.

Secondly, The Fin, or Tush of the Share will whelm the more when set down to the Work, which is the level or bottom of the head, or rather somewhat lower, which will give it a considerable advantage in clearing the Earth at the Throat, or first entrance on the Nose of the Shield-board with more ease; for sticking there, it will at once be gone all along the Plough.

A Share made most hanging from the Nose of the Breast-board, and not flat, as most are, viz. it should be pitched,

ed, or set on the Plough-head, a little hanging likewise on the Right Hand, and the Plough-head pitched hanging likewise: As for the breadth, I must leave it to Experience, as the nature of the Land requires it. If upon a Stony, or twitchy Wood-land, it must be narrower, and the more Flinty the narrower yet; but as the Land softens it may be encreased in breadth, so that it may cut up very clean the full breadth of the Furrow you carry with you, and not take it with the breadth of the Plough, which encreases the weight and strength, as those Ploughs mostly do, who go with narrow long-pointed Shires.

Secondly, As for the Coulter, it must, for truth of workmanship, be well steeled, and wrought thin and sharp on the edge, the point and the edge looking directly forward, neither carving or turning towards the Land, for that is usually apt to draw the Plough too wide, and if it look into the Furrow, it will draw it too narrow, but let it be just straight in a line to the pitch of the Plough. And now for the Plough-holders Direction, I shall give some general Rules.

First then, It is to be considered, whether he be able to judge and determine the truth of the Plough-wright's, and Smith's workmanship, and in case he finds therein an Error at first to mend it, which is then easier done, than when the Plough and Irons are wrought into it, or a greater Error.

Secondly, When he has his Plough, and all other Accoutrements compleat, let him be sure to make his first trial upon workable and regular Lands, and not upon hard, rooty, or twitchy Grounds; because upon such, a rule cannot be observed, nor a true demonstration had of the goodness, and truth of the Plough; because such Lands will more easily writh, and suddenly wrench a new Plough out of his work, before it be wrought into it; but when he has tryed, and well sowered it in moderate Land, he must bring it by degrees to others.

Thirdly, Having got a perfect Furrow, his Plough avoiding all Earth as it takes it on a breadth, carrying a fair clean Furrow along with it, turning it cleverly from it, let him look upon it as a choice Plough, and clout it with

clouts or slips in all the wearing places smooth and even, strengthening it with an Iron bolt at the Neck of it, from the bottom of the Head through the Beam, and there strongly drawn and clotted fast, if he have none before, that the Head may not draw the least; for a Plough having been drawn in the Breast, or Neck, it probably may be wholly spoiled. The next care must be, to keep the Irons sharp, clean wrought, your Coulter edge thin ground, the Phin sharp, with a very small point upon the Share, well steeled and tempered; and then if your Cattle be well matched, or sized, it will go with abundance of ease and celerity, and the Ground be well ploughed, to the Ploughman's credit, and the Master's profit. Lastly, He must be able to judge of the Land, and Seasons of ploughing, and to sort his several Ploughs to each alteration, or, at some Seasons, he will not be able to Plough, especially all his Land; therefore this business, properly timed, is a great Advantage, and much facilitates the Labour.

C H A P. XXV.

A Description of the most necessary sorts of Ploughs used for Tillage in England.

AS for Ploughs, there are several sorts used in England, according to the Custom of the Countries, or the liking of the People, and particularly four sorts are much affected.

1. *The Single-wheel-plough, and Foot-plough,*
2. *The Wheel-plough, called the Double-wheel-plough.*
3. *The Simple-plain-plough, without Wheels, or Feet.*
4. *The Dutch-bastard, or plain Dutch-plough.*

Many other sorts there are, some of them alter in their Heads, others in their Beams; some again in their Stales, and

and most in their Shares; of all which, it would be too tedious to discourse; wherefore I shall properly handle the Four premised in this Chapter, because I conceive them all very useful in some sort of Land or other. But to my purpose.

Of the Single-wheel-plough.

The Single-wheeled-plough may be used on almost all sorts of Land, and is of much lightness, and nimbleness in working. The main Plough-beam that this sort of Plow requires, is very short, viz. about five Foot, and must be made of strong and lasting Wood, as small and light as may be; to which is another false Beam aded, below the Coulter-hole, under the other, and fixed to it by a Staple drove up into the true Beam, with a caping upon the false Beam-end, and some other way; which false Beam is that, by which the Plow is drawn, giving an opportunity (by a Standard put into the end of it, bored full of holes, and passing through the Master-beam) to let the Plough up and down to any gage of depth, or shallowness, as shall be required, and the Beam is proper to guide it.

The Sheath is pitched very forward from the Beam into the Mould of the Share; whose Share, as I may term it, is made as long as the head should have been, and of the same use of the Plough-head, made of two small slips not so heavy as the head be: and there being no head at all, the Land-handle is put into the Share-mould with an Iron Pin, as also is the Plough-sheath, and fixed there fast with an Iron Pin, and the Share forward, made like another Share; and before the Breast-plate is a hole made through the Share, and there it is riveted, or else with an Iron hook put into a long Iron slip; which is to be made an Inch, or an Inch and a half broad, coming up to the Beam, before the Nose of the Shield-board, running through it, and is clotted on the top of the Beam, lying on the Shield-board, and the Shield-board is compassed a little below in the Breast; and so before the middle begins to wind and whelm toward the Furrow, and so more and

more winds to the very end, and this Breast-board is placed close on the Share made with a long Point, and narrow or broad Phin, as the Land requires, and sometimes any ordinary plain Share may be used and placed on the Head, as other Ploughs are, either with a narrow point for Stonyness or Gravel, or with a broad, plain, and long-sharp Point for mixed Sandy Earth.

The Pitch of these Ploughs are about two foot in depth, and 8 or 9 inches in wideness; and always be careful to observe, that the uprighter you pitch your Plough, it goes the narrower, and the more hanging it is, the broader it goes: As for the depth, I cannot conceive it is much material, because it is born up from the false Beam, till it comes to a true working pitch; and an Iron Axletree is planted in that false Beam, an inch or a little more in circumference, and about a foot long, 9 or 10 inches before the end of the false Beam, and put in square unto the Beam, that so it may be very fast; and at the other end of the Axletree runs a Wheel upon it, about 15 or 20 inches, and sometimes a little higher or lower, as suits best the Dryness or Wetness of the Ground; and this guides the Plough from the false Beam that it cannot sting or draw into the Ground, and so either with Horses or Oxen is drawn at the end of the false Beam with a Cock or Clavies, as occasion requires it.

That which is the Standard, fastened to the lower Beam, and runs through to over-gage the Plough, ought to be near two foot high; and in the over-end two holes are to be made to put the Horse-Reins through to come from the Horse-head to the Plough-handle; so that he who holds the Plough may guide him, and under those divers removing holes, and in the Beam one or two equal to those in the Standard, and an Iron Pin put through them both.

These Ploughs are very expeditious in a light Ground, managed by one Man, and may be drawn with one Horse to plough in Seed-Season, an Acre a day. The Double-wheel-plough is extraordinary in use in *Hertfordshire*, and many other up-land Counties; very useful upon Flinty and Stoney Ground, as also in hard Gravel, or any other

other hard Ground whatsoever, after it comes to exceed its natural Temper: It is usually drawn with Horses or Oxen in Double-geer two a-breast, and so indeed they draw the strongest, though they injure the Ground the more by Treading, therefore it is my opinion in wet Seasons they may be put to draw single in length.

Of the Double-wheel Plough.

This *Double-wheel-plough* is best made of a strong short cleft Ash, about six foot in length, the Beam requiring to be contrary to all others in the compass of it; the crook or compass must look upwards, and the Land-handles are to be placed at the great or nether-end of the Beam, as in other Ploughs; for it usually is made with one handle, and the Plough-staff is to serve in the place of a Furrow-handle, and in length answerable to the proper handle, which tends much to the easie and certain holding of the Plough.

Make the Sheath of the toughest of young Ash, well seasoned, set with a very good Mortice much forward: Let the Joints be true and well closed unto the Beam, driven up hard with a Brager behind it, to keep it from declining, so that in the strongest Land it is to cope with all, it may stand well to its work.

Let the Head be pitched as strongly as may be to the nether-end of the Stilt and Sheath, being to be well pinned through both, and the Share must be pitched upon the Head at a very deep pitch, and somewhat hanging; by which means the Plough will go much a-shore, because the Holders usually go two Furrows off the Plough wider on the near side of it: And as it is pitched deep, near a full yard, so it is likewise very broad, being near half a yard; and that I conceive to proceed from the Man's going so far wide of the Plough. The Share, for this Plough, must be made exceeding narrow, yet very strong, and running out to a good length in a small point well steeled; and sometimes, as the work or nature of the Ground requires it, you may add a Tush or Pain, but they likewise make it very narrow, and so it must conse-

quently be the Hardness and Stonyness of the Land, not admitting of it: As for the Coulter, it must stand a little above the Share point, not before, but rather behind it.

The Wheels of this Plough, that properly bear it, may be about 18 or 20 inches high, and made of about six Spokes of Wood or Iron, well fastened into a Nash or short Hub of Wood, and a Bark Hoop or Iron Binding round about them, and to run on an Iron Spindle about two foot long, running round in a Boulster, borne by the Iron Spindle three or four inches thick, lying between the Wheels, fifteen or sixteen inches or somewhat more in length, and 18 or 20 inches at least in height, standing up to bear the Plough-beam; and upon that Boulster must go up an Iron Pin 8 or 9 inches above the Beam, to gage it as to its true depth; and to the middle of the Boulster must be fastened an Iron Chain backward, with a strong Iron Collar, much in the fashion of a round Ring, which compasseth the Beam, being moveable, that as it is put forward or backward, the Plough may go shallower or deeper, as the occasion requires, and may be held in its place by an Iron Hammer, the Helve or Shaft being all solid; and by taking it out, and putting it in, to take up or let down at pleasure; and, as the Plough at the Land's end turns out of work, it must have some strong Cords or Whirleather to come up from the Boulster to keep the Beam from slipping off, being empty.

This Wheel-plough requires a considerable Strength to manage it well, because of the considerable Lengths they are made of, which carries in working a considerable weight of Earth upon it, adding very much to the burthen of it, which in some degree may be remedied by contracting these Ploughs unto a shorter or narrower compass, and taking off as much of the weight of the Wood and Iron as the strength of the Work will bear upon which it is to be employed.

Of the Turn-wrest-plough.

There is yet another Double-wheel-plough, called the *Turn-wrest-plough*, most commonly called the *Kentish-plough*, as being very much in use in that County: This is a Plough, whose Beam may be made of any Wood for the bigness of it, but Ash I account the best, but the two handles may be made of one forked piece of any Wood, and the Beam Tennanted into the Stilt before the Fork running down into the Plough-head: And as for the Sheath, it must be a good strong piece of well-seasoned Ash, Tennanted into the Beam directly down-right; yet looking forward at the nether-end, and somewhat fixed into the head, as other Ploughs are; however, the Sheath downwards must be far bigger, and the head of it pitched at a very great depth, or else at random, for depth being carried with two Wheels, but nothing like so near and easie as the before-mentioned two Wheeled-plough. For breadth, it must be pitched under the Beam upon a straight line; nor is there to be any Shield or Breast-board on either side the Plough, as other Ploughs have, but a little piece of Wood set along the Sheath forward, about three inches broad, closing upon the Share, just as if you were to cut a Dye in the midst from corner to corner, and place the flat-side to the Sheath and the edge forward, which is to be the Breast-board.

As for the Share, it is to be put on the Plough-head with a Phan half round upwards, and flat downwards, and ought to be rushed a little on both sides, as the ordinary Ploughs are, and so it is to run out to a sharp point.

Some of these Ploughs are made with one Wrest, others with two, and the latter I account the best and surest; and these Wrests are to be put upon Pins, one in the Sheath, standing immediately under the Breast-board, and the other unto a longer Pin, or round Staff fixed unto the bottom of the handle as wide as the Furrow; and this Wrest may be only a round Stick about two foot long, or as some have it, a half round with two holes to put the aforesaid Pins into; and at every Land's end, this Wrest must

must be turned on the other side ; so, where there is two, they must both be likewise altered, and one placed two or three inches higher than the other, and the highest is to be placed broader by an inch and a half, two inches, and sometimes three inches, than the lowermost, that so it may cleverly and cleanly cast the Furrow over.

As for the Coulter, it must be moveable in the Coulter-hole (that being made very wide) at every Land's end ; and to this purpose there must be a strong Ground-Oak Plant about an inch and a half over very tough, and with that you may (having two pins placed on the top of the Beam at an equal distance one from the other, and both equally distant from the Coulter) wrest it, or wrest it from one side to another, and there hold it till you come to the Land's end, and there turn both Wrest and Coulter.

This is a very good sort of Plough for ploughing Lands that lye on the sides of Hills, and cannot well be ploughed either upwards or downwards ; or if you have any flat level piece where you would not have one Furrow discovered, this will perform it very well the foremost Horse or Ox going in the Furrow, and the nearest upon the Land, and ever double ; and for those sorts of Ground it is extraordinary useful to cast the Furrow.

Of the Double-plough, ploughing two Furrows at once.

The Double-plough is in many places advantageous, taking two Furrows at once, though a very plain Plough ; it is made with one long Beam, and another short one, not much more than half the length of the other ; the first must be made a compleat plain Plough, except the Handles, which may be very short, only so long as to receive the Beam with the Land-handle, and place the Shield-board on the Furrow-side, which may be done with a round Staff, from the Beam to the Shield-board, which Handles excepted, it is one compleat Plough in all particulars. The hinder end of the Beam must be left a little stronger, because of the fastening the other Beam firmly to it.

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As for the hindermost Plough, it must be made in all the Members and Branches like the other, except the Beam cut off about three inches before the Coulter-hole, and the Handles at length and strength like an ordinary strong plain Plough ; which being done, as the Handles upon the last Plough, you must set to the placing of it in its place.

As first, the Plough standing in its working posture, the handled Plough is to be affixed to the nearer side, or the left-hand, one Furrow-breadth under the other ; and just in the very same posture, both for breadth and depth as the other, and so held off from the first Plough-Beam by a lining or filling of Wood, just the Substance as may continue it fast and firm to a just Furrow, and there drawn close and firm to the Master-beam with two small bands of Iron, and a broad Slout or two of Wood, all which may be so keyed and cramped up, that it may be in one solid Beam, and consequently move as the first moves, either for depth or height ; and this I hold may be the best used with the Plough-foot to guide the depth of it, except you place a Wheel to the foremost Beam, but do it not in the false Beam, because Experience teaches it is best in the end of that Beam to have as good a Mortis as the Beam will bear, which is a Mortis for the foot, and in it place a square piece of good rough Ash, or, if you can conveniently compass it, Iron, into which you may put your Iron Axletree with its Square, and so fitted into three or four several holes of it.

By the means directed, the Plough may be set at a Working-gage, and continue or alter it as it best suits your business ; and the Plough thus accoutered, you may very well pass it on ordinary Arable-Land, a double Proportion also upon Lay-turf that is clean : And this may well be managed by two Men and four Horses, that have been a little used to the Work ; but upon rough or stony Land, it will not do so well.

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Of the Plough carrying a Harrow after it.

There is yet another kind of Plough that will carry a Harrow after it, and do both works at once; and this is of good esteem in *Norfolk*: This must be a common light Plough, and a light Harrow which must contain three little light Bulls, and about five times in a Bull, and they must also be made light, and fixed to the Plough at one end of the Beam; that on the turning of the Plough this may turn with it, and as the Plough turns one Furrow, the Harrow harrows it, over-reaching two more Furrows; and so by the over-reaching, it strikes two or three times in one place, which may well cover the Corn: But then here some will object, it must needs take up a great deal of time for a Seedsman to sow as the Plough works, when but one Acre can be well ploughed this way in a day, and he can sow ten. To this I answer, A Riddle placed on the Beam of the Plough, to fester the Corn proportionably as the Harrow follows to cover it, the motion of the Plough jolting or forcing the Seed out by such degrees as it proportions to being scattered out of the hand, and by these means much Labour and Time are spared, the Business being done at once that requires three times; but this cannot in words be so well described as by seeing and practising.

Of the Dutch Plough.

The *Dutch* Plough is proper for Fen and Marsh-Lands, where Stones root, or hard places come not to hinder it, and the chiefest advantage it hath, is Ease and Expedition, by reason of the Breadth and Sharpness of the Share, which is to be made about a foot and a half broad, sharp in the Point, and as thin in the Point as a Knife, casting up a great broad Furrow very clean, with much possible ease.

As for the Coulter, it is especially applicable to the aforesaid Lands, but may be used upon any fair pure lay Turf if it be old Pasture: As for the bastard *Dutch* Plough, it is more suitable to the various sorts of Lands, but the Irons

Irons must be prepared very sharp, as the former, made of the best Steel to the point and edge of the Share and Coulter, carrying a true proportion; but these last, not being much used in *England*, the particular description of their make will not much avail our English Plough-wrights, nor indeed the Plough-men, who have sufficient experience of our own substantial Ploughs.

Thus have I been pretty large upon this main Instrument of Husbandry, that nothing necessary in this Work may be omitted, that can reasonably conduce to the advantage of the industrious Husband-man; and indeed, on his care (next to the Divine Providence) the Supplies of the Nation, in a great measure depend; for if the Plough deserts, and the Earth be not manured for increase to produce its fruitfulness, neither Gold nor Silver can encounter with pale Famine, which must needs encroach upon us, Bread being properly called the Staff of Man's Life, &c.

C H A P. XXVI.

A Computation of Work to be done by one Man, in one Day, in the sundry Occupations relating to Husbandry.

HAVING proceeded thus far, for the most part upon Particulars, I come now to say something in General about Husbandry, briefly touching several things worthy of remark; and these I must chiefly attribute to a Country, where it is tolerable, without any extraordinary difficulties.

As for Ploughing, a Man may, in light sandy Ground, turn up two or three Acres with one Team in a day: when in stiff clayey Ground, one and a half is a sufficient day's work; and in very light Ground, four at the least; and what is sowed, may be harrowed the same day.

An able Man, expert in mowing, may well Mow (in
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a good deep loggy Meadow, or a rough and uneven Meadow) about an Acre and a half in a day; and of short thin upland Meadow, at least two Acres each day.

As for mowing Barley, or Oats, if they be loggy, thick, and beaten down to the Earth, making fair work, and not cutting off the heads of the Ears, leaving the Straw still growing, one Acre and a half a day: but if it be thick and upright, then two Acres, or two and a half may be reasonably mowed. If the Corn be short and thin, then he may Mow three, and somewhat more, without over-labouring. Of Beans, he may Mow as much; and of Pease and Beans, having a Hook to follow him, no less; for this is a Work the least troublesome.

As for Reaping, one Man with a Binder may compass an Acre of Wheat, or Rye in a day, if it be choice good, and well standing; but if flatted, or beaten down, then three Rood is very reasonable, and five Rood if it be thin and upright. Of small Pease, Fetches, and the like, he may cut up two Acres a day. As for the gathering and inning of Grain, it cannot be well proportioned, because ground bears more or less, the inning may be at a nearer or further distance; and therefore I shall leave this to the Master's care, or such as he shall appoint to see it hastened, with as much convenient speed as may be.

In thrashing Corn, care, as well as haste, must be observed; and if the Corn be full and clean, free from any abuse, or poverty in the Grain, a Man may Thrash, and order, four Bushels in a day of Wheat or Rye; six of Oats or Barley; eight of Pease or Beans; especially if the Pease be full and in plenty, otherwise he cannot Thrash so many of them as of any other Pulse; for though they require as many strokes, and as much turning, yet they yield not, and labour is bestowed of them when they answer it not.

As for the labour of Ditching, a Man may, in one day, Ditch and Quickset, of a reasonable Ditch, three Foot deep, and four broad, a Rod or Pole, allowing sixteen Feet to the Pole; and so less Ground of large measure, less proportionable to the sufficiency of the Fence undertaken.

As for Hedging, If it be substantial and good, viz. five foot high, well bounded, thick stocked, and close layed, two Pole or Rod in a day is sufficient; but thinner and lower, then double or equivalent to a proportion.

Plashing and making Quick-fence, is another labour, which so well order, if the growth be high and well grown, you must lay it thick and close, strongly binding in the tops, turning the quick downward and inward; and of this a Rod a day is a good day's work: but if he plash it down, and only lay it along, regarding more thickneſs than comeliness or order, then he may do as much more with ease: and indeed the care of fencing in inclosed Countries is one principal matter, for a good Fence once made and settled, saves a Man a great deal of labour and trouble.

As for Delving or Ditching, which some Grounds require, where Woods have been grubbed up, and not well cleared of the spreading Fibres of the Roots; then, of very difficult Ground, if it be to level, he may dig a Rod in a day: but if he dig very deep and trench it, or manure it, as is proper, then three parts of a Rod is sufficient: for asordinary delving requires but one Spade's graft extraordinary, to take up the heart of the Ground, requires much more.

C H A P. XXVII.

The Variation of Soil in the several Counties, requires different Measures to be taken in Agriculture, &c.

IT is proper, in this place, to be considered, that there is a variation in Husbandry, according to the Country, and therefore there may be difference in Rules to be observed, in divers places, according to Air and Earth; and the greatness or smallness of the heat: or as moisture and

and cold doth decrease or diminish: And to these must the Husbandman tune his Seasons, Labours and Instruments; for in stiff Clays, of which all the fruitful Valleys of this Kingdom are composed, as also in *Huntington-shire*, *Cambridge-shire*, *Bedford-shire*, and many others, all manner of Arable business must be begun early in the Year, and the Ploughs, and Instruments to be used, made of the largest size, the Timber strong, and the Labour great and painful; so also in Soils that are mixed, and very good and fruitful, as *Hertford-shire*, *Northampton-shire*, and most part of *Berk-shire*, *Essex*, and *Kent*, with other Counties of the like nature, Arable Labour ought to begin in the latter Season, and the Instruments, and Ploughs, made of a middle size, and the Timber indifferent, and less Labour will serve than in the former: But the light Sandy Grounds, having a natural fruitfulness in them, as *Surry*, *Suffolk*, *Norfolk*, and many parts of *Lincoln-shire*, *Hampshire*, &c. the Arable Toils may begin at the last Seasons, and Ploughs, with Instruments, may be of the smallest and lightest size, the Timber smaller than the former, and the Labour less.

As for all barren unfruitful Earth, as in *Cornwall*, *Devon-shire*, many parts of *Wales*, *York-shire*, *Cheshire*, *Lancashire*, and *Derby-shire*, and the like, the ploughing and ordering is to be in a fit Season, according to the temperateness of the weather, which if it happen early, you must begin your Labour at latter Seasons; and there is no true proportion to be given here for the Plough and Instruments, but they must be framed according as the Ground is stronger or weaker; and therefore rather follow Reason in these things, than Custom, and then by experience you will find less labour, and better thriving.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXVIII.

What is required in Husbandry, in order to Oxen and Horses, for Tilling of Lands variously Situate, &c.

AS for the Office and Duty of a Husbandman, it requires great care and diligence, and therefore I shall speak something farther of it than yet I have done.

And first, to lay his Lands to his own profit, and the ease of the labouring Cattle; let him observe if his Arable Land shall lye against the side of any steep Hill, as mostly barren Lands do not, then plough such Lands directly against the Hill, beginning below, and so ascending upwards, if the ascent be not very easie; for this will so weary your Cattle, and make them irksome, that they never go through it, if it be any thing considerable, and the beating and tolling them, will surfeit and spoil them; but on the contrary, in such Grounds, plough it sideways overthwart the Hill, that your Beasts may tread on the level Ground, and so shall the Compost and Manure which is laid on, not be soon washed away from the upper part, because the Furrows not lying straight downwards, the washings of the Rain stop, and cannot descend, and so the Soil is kept in.

In the next place, it is a Husbandman's care, to know what Cattle are fit for draught, and the Tillage of his Ground; whether Oxen, or Horses, or both of them together: In cold stony mountainous Countries, Horses are preferred, though in most Counties Oxen are sure, and of great value in this Labour, as being steady, very strong, and slower in their pace, so that the Ground may be ploughed deep, and carefully; and besides, when their Labour is done, they turn to advantage by their Hides, Flesh, &c. But in many Counties, Horses are preferred, because they serve

serve for other uses, not proper to those, and endure Wet and Hardship better; and indeed in driving, if you make that speed with your Oxen as you do with your Horses, you will not only tire, over-heat, bruise and spoil them, but render them unfit for Labour or Feeding; but if you have a sufficient Stock to keep Oxen and Horses, put the first to plough near home, and keep them to their moderate pace only, and they will do well enough, and let the latter draw the Cart, or be used at the Plough where Expedition is required, according to the Roads or Ground, as the Countries lay, or the Fashion used among your Neighbours, though I cannot consent that Custom is so much to be followed as some plead for, if it be dissonant to Reason and true Experience; therefore industrious Husbandmen try many ways, and stick to that which redounds to their best advantage.

C H A P. XXIX.

Proper Things to be observed, and done throughout the twelve Months in the Year.

THere is one thing more to be considered, in which a Husband-man ought to have regard to, and that is proper Seasons of the Year for particular labours, and these I shall briefly set down as far as they concern the present Discourse.

In the Month of *January*, if you live in a good fertile Soil, among rich simple Clays, in the first place plough up the Pease-ground, that it may lye to take bait before it be sown; but if in fruitful and well-mixed Soil, then in this Month; if the Weather be open, water such Pasture and Meadow-Grounds as require it: Drain, and make dry Arable-Lands, especially where you are to sow Pease, Oats or Barley; the following Seed-time stub up the rough Ground you intend to sow the Year following, and for

your own Health keep warm your Body; feed on good wholesome Diet, and rather with Exercise than Sauce, whet, and encrease your Appetite.

In *February* set or sow all sorts of Beans, Pease, and other Pulse; and the stiffer your Ground is, begin your Arable-Toil the sooner; Forbear Ments that are slimey; take heed of cold and plegmatick Humours, and if need, or any accident require, bath and purge; and if the Weather be suitable, you may bleed, but not too lavishly.

In *March* end the sowing Season of all sorts of small Pulse, and begin Barley, Rye and Oats; the Rye must be that which is called *March Rye*. This Month, if necessity require it, you may often bath, but not bleed; unless it be upon Extremities; purge gently, and let your Diet be temperate and cooling.

April requires you to finish up your Barley Seed-time, and order your Ground for the Sowing of Hemp and Flax; cut down great Oak-Timber, that the Bark may the better rise; scower Ponds and Ditches, and gather what Manure you can to your Lay-stall; lay your Meadows slight, and your Corn-ground; gather Stone from off the Land; set Osiers and Willows to make good your Fences; cast up Banks and Ruines for the repair of all decayed Fences; and, where Health requires it, purge, bath, or bleed; use moderate Exercise, which stirs the Humours in the Body, and causes a healthful Constitution, with the use of temperate Meats and Drink, which Nature longs after.

In *May* sow Barley upon all light Sands and burning Ground, as also Flax, Hemp, and tender Seeds; Summer-stir your mixed Earths, fallow your stiff Clays, soil all light and loose Sand: As for barren Earth, prepare it for Rye and Wheat, stub the Roots of Broom or Fern, Goss or Furs, burn Bait; begin to fold your Sheep, carry out Manure, and bring home Fencing and Fewel; weed Winter-Corn, Cut all sorts of Grass either in Fother or Pasture.

For your Health use Drink that will cool and purge the Blood.

In *June* carry Manure, Sand, Lime, and other Manure of any kind, to the Land; lay up store of Fuel, shear your fatter sort of Sheep early, cut rank low Meadows, and for Health be temperate in Diet.

In *July* take seasonable Weather for your Hay Harvest, for there is much Discomodity and Loss in neglect; Summer-stir rich stiff Grounds; Latter-soil all loose hot Sands; soil all mixed Grounds; fence up your Copices; graze your Elder Underwoods, and bring home all Field-Timber.

As for Health, abstain from Bleeding and Purgings, unless in necessitous Cases; be not over-venerous, nor meddle not with Superfluity of strong Liquors.

In *August* apply yourself to take the best seasonable time for your Corn-Harvest; Mow Rye, Wheat, Barley, and Oats, and be moderate in all your Diet; Labour and Exercise, for this Month is full of Diseases very dangerous to Life.

In *September* cut up your Beans, Pease, and all other Pulse, and put an end to your Harvest: Manure your Wheat-Lands; sow Rye and Wheat in rich and barren Grounds; Thatch your Stacks of Wheat; Thrash Wheat and Rye, and order all your necessary Affairs abroad, that they may not be hindred by Overflowings, occasioned by great Rains or falling Snows, or the breaking of the Ground into deep ways.

For Healths-sake, this Month Physick moderately, forbear eating too much Fruit, especially those that are too lucious, lest they infect the Blood, and create Diseases; and be temperate in Meats and Drinks.

In *October* finish your Wheat-sowing, scower Ditches and Ponds for Manure, plash Hedges, and set Quicksets; make an end of Winter-ridging, draw Furrows to keep dry by well-draining your new-sown Corn, make store of Malt.

For Health, take moderate Physick from a skilful hand; use moderate Recreation, and feed well on wholesome Diet.

In *November* it is proper to sow either Rye or Wheat in very hot Soils; cut down all sorts of Timber for Ploughs, Carts and Axletrees, and other Husbandry-Utensils or Instruments; break all such Flax and Hemp as is designed for Spinning and use in the Winter-season.

For Health and Vigour, eat strong wholesom Meats for good Digestion; and, unless in extream cases, there is neither need of Physician nor Physick; for all dangerous Diseases are still, unless Excess stir them up by Surfeits, and other Forcings of the good Constitution, and unnatural Temper of the Body.

In *December* begin to plough up your Ground whereon you only intend to sow clean Beans; drain your Corn-fields if it be open Weather; keep your Meadows indifferently moist, but not with deep Overflowings; provide good store of Household-Provisions, and rejoice in the Labour of your Hands.

And for Health eat Meats that are hot and nourishing, and comfortable Liquors, and so you may bring the Year about with Profit and Satisfaction.

CHAP. XXX.

Utensils and Tools necessary for the Husband-man, for Arable-Land, the Barn, Stable, Meadows and Pastures, &c.

HAVING proceeded to speak of Day-labour, I think it not amiss to say something of Carts, Waggons, &c. that may facilitate some part of this Labour, in being well ordered and rightly applied: And to have these in good condition, observe the Ground and Ways they are to be used in, and the Weight proper to be drawn, and make them stronger or lighter, grosser or slenderer; and observe the more upright, or square the Spokes are from the Nave or Center, the heavier the Weight leaning on that side presses on them; and therefore to evade that as much as

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Arable, Pasture, and

may be, they must be placed boughing in outward than the Wheel may appear somewhat concave, which will prevent it from any Slip or Wrench in Stoney, or other rough Ground that may occasion any easie breaking; and the larger the Wheel is, the easier it moves, because the Bond being more flat, with greater facility it passes over any Stones or Hardness, where Jumpings, when laded, may endanger; and a Wheel of eighteen foot circumference rides as much Ground in one Turning, as one of nine does in twice, moving slowly on the Axletree; so that it rarely wears it as the lesser do, and carry the Load with much more ease, though the lower the bed of the Cart is placed the better the Load is secured from over-turning.

Besides Carts and Waggons, there are Tools and Utensils proper to be inserted, though not unknown to that trade in Agriculture, &c. yet I shall here insert them in their proper places, to be the more ready at hand: As first,

Belonging to Arable and Field-Land.

Harrows, Drags, Forks, Sickles, Reap-Hooks, Wee-Hooks, Pitch-Forks, Rakes, Plough-Staff and Beetle, Sledges, Rowers, Mold-Spears and Traps, Cradle-sides, Scythes, &c.

Belonging to the Barn and Stable.

Ladders, Flakes, Winnowing-Fans, Corn-Measure Sieves and Rudders, Brooms, Sacks, Sekeps or Scythes, Bins, Pails, Curry-Combs, Main-Combs, Whips, Goads, Harness for Horses, and Yokes for Oxen, Pannels, Wattle, teys, Pack-Saddles, Sifflings, Cart-Lines, Skreens for Corn.

Belonging to Pastures and Meadows.

Rakes, Scythes, Pitch-Forks, Prongs, Fetters, Clogs, Shackles, Cutting-Spades and Hooks, Horse-Locks, with others of lesser note, with which a Husband-man ought to be furnished at need.

C H A P. XXXI.

To preserve your Grain, when sown, from all sorts of Vermin, who are apt to destroy or annoy it.

HAVING said somewhat of bringing Ground to bear good Corn, as also the Methods of Sowing, especially barren Grounds, for that which is fertil has not any occasion to be treated of, but in some particular respects, which in the course of this Book will be laid down apart; it will now be highly necessary to instruct you how to preserve your Grain, and, in the first place, from the Destroyers of it before it springs up, &c. Rooks, Crows and Daws, are great Devourers of Grain; to keep these from your Land, shoot some of them, and hang them on Poles in divers Angles of your Field, stick their Feathers along the Ridges of the Land, lay Trains of Gunpowder, and blow the Powder up, or let it lye scattering in the most frequented places, and the Scent of it will make them, with a little Shooting, forsake the Field: You may also take great numbers of them by placing strong thick brown Papers twisted taper-wise, like those on Sugar-Loaves, in holes of the Earth, the broad top coming even with the Ground; Bird-lime the inside, and scatter some Grain in it, and then the Fowl putting in its Head to take it out, the Paper so lined will stick close and rise with him, when being blind-folded, in amaze he will fly up a great height and fall down again; so that if you be at hand, he may be easily taken: The scattering *Nuxvomica* mingled with Paste, if taken by them, as it seldom misses, will make them so sick that they will forsake the Field; if you Lime your Corn, they will forsake it; if it be steeped in Water wherein Wormwood has been much boiled or infused, or sprinkle it with the Dregs of the bitterest Oil, it will do the like, by making them cast it up sick, and

not covetous of any more; and these, with hanging Bunches of Feathers on Lines or Sticks, that they may dance and twirl in the Wind may, in a great measure preserve your Grain; and this latter may be as well when the Corn is ripe as before: And these I give you as general Rules for Pigeons, and all other Devourers of Grain, relating to Birds, those what you can they will come in for some share with you.

Pismires are another great Devourer of Corn, and will carry or bite off Chits or Sprouts, so that it will never grow, but rot in the Ground a great quantity: To prevent this, search your Corn-fields well, especially under the Hedges, and the Roots of old hollow Trees, or on the Tops of Hills cast up; and if you find them there, pour Limed-water strong and hot amongst them, presently after Sun-setting, and it will destroy them; for water of Lime make a Lye of Wood-ashes, and it will do the same, though not so effectually.

There are another sort of Corn-Devourers, called Dore, great black Clocks or Beetles, which lye under the Cloot and in Sprouting-time do great mischief: To destroy these, make great Smoaks in your Fields in a still Night, or a little breathing Wind that may carry it over the Surface of the Ground, with wet Rubbish or moldy Peas, straw, Hay, or the like, and it will either kill them, or chase them from your Ground, for they are the greatest Enemies of all others to Smoak, and can least endure it: and if your Ground be Limed, or you sow Lime amongst your Corn, you may spare this; for if they bite where the Lime has touched, it kills them.

Field-Rats and Mice, also Water-Rats, destroy much Grain: To prevent this, and ruin them, find out the round holes when the Field is bare, and put Hemlock Seed into them, and eating it will kill them; the sprinkling of the Juice of Hellebore in them, will do the like; but above all, I approve to beat the common Grass very small, mix it with a little Copernis, Verril, and Corn Honey, make it up in Pellets, and scatter it in the Haunts, in the mouths of their holes, or the most likely places, and the Scent will speedily draw them to it from all parts, and, once eating it, they will die: This may

also used in Granaries or Barns for other Rats and Mice, with good success.

Slugs and Snails do much harm to Corn, and Pease just sprouting up: To kill these, the best thing is Soot or Lime sprinkled thinly over the Ground, for touching it they will die.

Grasshoppers in some measure do much Injury, by feeding on the Leaf and Blossom of Corn and Pulse, from the earliest to the latest: These are hard to be destroyed without very great labour, and that is by sprinkling the Corn with Water wherein Wormwood, Rue, or Centaury, has been boiled, till the strength of them are quite taken out by the Water; and if they bite where the Sprinklings happen, they will die, and the Scent of any bitter thing is so offensive to them, that they are never found where any such thing grows.

Moles are two ways destructive to Corn, viz. in eating the Roots, and rooting it up, not making distinction of any sort, but taking all alike: There are divers ways of taking them, but not so easily when the Corn is well grown, for when they do their chiefest mischief, when their Tracks, or the Casting up of their Hills cannot be so easily discovered: However, you must do it as well as you can, and when you see them casting up, or moving in their Tracks, strike them with an Iron of many Spears; or dig Pits in their Tracks, and set earthen glazed Pots, which they will blindly fall into, and cannot scramble out; or fill a earthen Jugg with Pitch, Rosin and Brimstone, with some loose Tow or Rags, and, firing it, clap the Neck to the mouth of the hole, and the Air in the Earth, drawing the scent to a great distance, will stifle them; or mix the Juice of Hellebore with Rye-meal, scatter little bits in the furrows, and finding it in their way, they will greedily eat and die.

C H A P. XXXII.

To prevent Smuttiness in Corn, preserve it against Blasts; the Injury of Black Frosts, Snow-water, Mists, and how it is to be ordered when reaped wet.

THere are other Mischiefs that befall Corn, though not from living Creatures, which I have laboured to find some suitable Remedies for in the trying many Experiments.

To prevent the Smuttiness and Mildew, before you sow your Grain, sprinkle the Ground over lightly with Chalk beaten very small.

Against Blasts, the properest Remedy is held, (observing the Season when they usually happen) to make Fires of Stubble or rotten Straw, and burn in them the Snips of old Leather, the Shavings of Horn, and a little Brimstone, so advantageously on the sides of the Ground, that a small Gale of Wind may carry the Smoak, and spread it among the Corn or Pulse. This will likewise destroy Flies; and other Black Frosts are very injurious to all Grain; the piercing Cold chilling or killing the fertile Heat that propagates the Growth, and either withers or stints it if it be extream, and without Snow: To bed it, and keep off the bleak Winds, there is no better Remedy against this than to strow Ashes over your Land, either Wood or Sea-coal; and they add much Heat to it, and keep off a great part of the Cold; some throw rotten Straw over it, but that proves a great Inconvenience; the other nourishes the Ground, and is good Manure for barren Earth.

As for Snows lying on the Ground, it injures not the Corn; but upon Thaws, the Water being of a harsh Allom nature, much injures the Roots if it lie long upon it; and

the best way to prevent it, is to lay your Lands high, your Furrows deep, and to have suitable Drains to the Lowness of your Ground, to drain it away as fast as may be.

Mists and Fogs are very offensive, where they are great, or rise from ill-scented Grounds, especially from Fens, Salt-Marshes, Standing-Pools, Lakes, &c.

The way of remedying this evil is to smoak the Land in the Evening with any sort of Fuel that casts a gross thick Smoak, which will in some measure disperse and dry up the Vapour that would otherways, by falling on it, be poisonous and offensive to the Corn.

Of Corn reaped wet, there comes great damage; for being so by Rain, and not time given it to dry abroad, or by the Unripeness, or too Greenness of it when mowed, if the Heat be great thereby contracted, it often sets it on fire; if less, it moulders, rots, or moulds the Straw and Grain, that it is of little or no value: You may know when the Corn is ready to reap by the much bending of the Ear, driness of the Stalk, and hardness of the Grain; then if you see any Weeds growing up among it, that are but of a moderate height, reap it as soon as you can to take in the less Weeds, or the Seed of them to encumber or worsen it: If Grass be grown high among it, and you cannot avoid reaping it with the Corn, take care to spread it thin before you sheave it, and dry it well in the Sun till it wither and become as Hay very dry, and then sheave it up, and shock it in small Shocks; then when it has sweat a little open it, and give it the Sun and the Air, that it may yet be more dry; then lay it in greater Shocks, and let it sweat again, and so open it, and when it is by this means well opened and dried, Inn it; but sometimes Rain or great Mists, causes a Weakness; if it be before the Reaping, let it stand somewhat longer in Expectation of a favourable Season; but if your Expectation be frustrated, and by the abundance of falling Rains the Corn is likely to be beaten down, grow again, or rot, you must make a Virtue of Necessity, reap it, carry it home, and having aired and dried a little under shelter, you must have Kills to dry it, often turning and shifting the Sheaves; and when it is dry, let it cool well, and mow

it up lightly that the Air may come plentifully amongst it, leaving for that purpose a hollow in the middle of the Mow and underneath, and so it will be kept good and sweet.

C H A P. XXXIII.

Proper Directions for Stacking of Corn in the true Method, to keep it from Vermin, Fowl, Taking-Wet, or Musting.

WHere there is not a Conveniency of Housing, there is a necessity of Stacking Corn, and care must be used for the well-ordering of it this way, that it may be preserved with the least loss, also from Wet and Moulding; for a moist Ground, if the Stack be unadvisedly placed on it without any other Remedies, will spoil at least a yard of the Bottom; and therefore you must make and raise your Ground on purpose with Gravel, Sand and Pebles, or other Stones not subject to breaking, proportionable for a Stack, either round or a square, or triangular, distant from Eves-dropping, or the Drooping of Trees; and so that the violent Winds cannot blow the Rain, or Melting-Snow off from them (though they stand at some distance) upon the Stack; yet so that it may stand safe sheltered from high turbulent Wind, that would arise or uncover it; then, upon the Earth so rais'd above the Level of Water, occasioning Overflowings by sudden Showers, make four pieces of Stone or Timber like Blocks, broad on the lower-end and narrower on the top, of equal height about two foot and a half, and fix the lower-end a little in the ground; that they may stand steady; then lay on their tops square Boards two inches thick, and three foot square every way, strong and substantial, well-seasoned, and free from warping; then take strong Over-lays of Wood, and lay them from one Board to another

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four-square, and on these place other smaller Poles close in a manner to each other; and upon this Frame stack or mow your Corn, Pease, Beans, &c. as near for conveniency to the Thrashing-Flore as may be; make the Stack neatly compacted and upright, which Experience rather than Printed Directions must instruct you in; and you will, if you be a little careful in it, save much Corn, for the broad Boards at the Corners will fend off the Mice by their hanging so much over the Stumps or Blocks, and the height, together with the Poles, will prevent the Moisture from injuring it any ways from the Dampness of the Ground.

As for your laying your Corn into Stack, observe to turn the Eary-part of the Sheaves inward, and so the Pigeons, Sparrows, &c. will be disappointed: And of all Proportions of Stacks, I commend the round for the best; and when it is made, after some days setting you must Thatch it well to keep out the Wet; and when you stack your Whear, let the top be Oats, or other coarse Grain, and so it will lye in greater safety from Wet, the top being ever in most danger to receive Damage: Fence it about with small Poles, that Cattel come not to damage it; and if your Stack be very long, you must have more Pillars to support it, as six or eight.

C H A P. XXXIV.

To know washed Corn, and how to lay up and keep it to the best advantage, all useful sorts of Grain in Granaries, &c.

THere is a sort of Corn, though it may be good enough for Grinding, is altogether nought for Seed, and throws away the Husband-man's Labour and Charge in sowing it, because it will not prosper, if at all it sprout up; and therefore I think fit to give a Caution in this case, that knowing it, it may be avoided; and this is

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that which is called Washed Corn, such as grows in the middle of the Ear when the rest is smutty; and being thrashed out with the Smuttiness about it, is blackned, and so not fit for the Market till it is washed clean.

(1.) To know this from other Corn, take up a handful, and if it look clear, bright, and shining, without Change or Difference of one entire colour, then it is good Corn, and not washed.

(2.) If at the ends it looks whiter than in the middle, and the Whiteness be a darkish muddy colour, and not shining, there being a changeable colour in it, then it is Washed Corn, and not fit to be sown.

(3.) If you put a few Grains of it in your Mouth, and in chewing the Taste be sweet and pleasant, also mellow and gentle between your Teeth in the chewing, then it is not washed; but on the contrary, if it have a bitterish or flashy raw Taste, gritting or grinding hard between your Teeth with a Roughness, then it is Washed Corn; also when Corn is more than ordinary dry or moist, those are signs of Naughtiness for Seed, though not so bad as the former, shewing either imperfection in the Corn, or in the keeping of it; for good Corn ever holds an indifferent temper between Moisture and Dryness: And these things ought mainly to be considered, because it is not only the loss of the Seed, but the Expences and Disappointment.

There are other things very materially to be considered; as first, The well-keeping of Corn, which is twofold, viz. in the Ear, and out of the Ear: As for the first of these, I have described in the manner of Shocking, Drying, and Stacking; and for the second, it is the most material, when it is thrashed out, and well dressed, by severing it from the Chaff, Cockle, or any offensive Seeds of Weeds growing up among it; and in this case your Granaries, or other places of keeping it, must be considered to be made sundry ways, according to the Custom, or rather Nature of the Country: Some are made with Clay, some trodden with Straw and Hair, the former chopped small, and such like: But these I like not, for they soonest corrupt the Corn; for, notwithstanding their

Warmth,

Warmth, which is a Preserver, they however produce such Dust as produce Mites, Weavels, and other Vermin, Destroyers of Corn, so that they make it easily rot.

Others of Stone and Lime are subject to Sweatings in wet Weather, and by the Moistness corrupt the Corn.

Some again are made of Lime and Brick, and these indeed are very good to prevent the coming or breeding of the Weavels, and other small Vermin; but the Sharpness of the Lime is unwholesome for all sorts of Grain.

The best then that I can advise to, for the keeping of all manner of Grain, is that made of Plaster, burnt and brought into a Mortar; so that by the working of small Stones into the midst of it, the insides and outsides may be smoothed with the Plaster, the Stones being hidden at least two fingers thick on each side, and all the bottom is proper to be plastered, it being the best of all Flores for the keeping of Corn of any sorts: Place these kind of Grainaries as near as you can to the Air of the Fire as may be convenient, for the Plaster is very cold, yet it is ever dry, and so free from Moisture, that no change of the Air alters it in that particular; but it always keeps the Corn in one state of Dryness and Goodness, and the warm standing of it in Winter is such a Comfort, and the natural Coldness of the Plaster in Summer, that it temporizes so well, that I can conceive nothing better for the preserving of Grain.

Where this Conveniency is not, or at least you will use Hatches, Bins, or dry Fats, and the like; they must, if fit for use, be made of dry or well-seasoned Oak-boards, very plainly smoothed, closely joyned, and glewed together, with Leds and Covers made very close, to prevent as much as may be the Coming in of the Air; but the principle use of these are to keep Malt in after it is dried, or Barley to be ground, or feeding Cattel.

To preserve Wheat the best way, that it may be free from defects, Reap it in seasonable Weather, at the Change of the Moon; Thrash, Winnow, and Dress it as clean as you can,

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can, then lay it in the Plaister-Lofts, or Granaries described; spread it about a Foot thick at the uppermost, and so let it lye; and, at the end of four or six days at the most, turn it well with a large wooden Shovel, and it will keep sweet, sound, and good-conditioned, so that the heat, sweat, or coldness, cannot offend it; the first being cooled and tempered by the opening, and the second dried up by the Air, that has free access to it; and thirdly, it is refreshed by the tossing it up and down.

To preserve Rye, or Maslin, or, as some call it, Muck, or Blend-Corn, being a mixture of Rye and Wheat; as for this sort of Grain, or for Rye alone, that which preserves the Wheat will preserve the Rye; for they are Grains of like nature, only the Rye is somewhat hotter and dryer, and will continue good in moister places, and therefore the Plaister-Floors, with often turning, is the properest to preserve it: It will also do well in close Hutches, or in the Pipe, or Dry-Fat; but being once opened, and the Air freely entering among it, except it be soon spent, it will putrifie, or taint.

To preserve Oats after they are thrashed and dried, put them into a close Graner, or Cask, free from moisture, and they will keep many Years; and Oat-meal is preserved the same way, though it is proper it should, if possible, have some air of the Fire; for the warmer it stands, the longer it will continue sweet and good.

As for the well-keeping of Meal, let it lye about a fortnight in the Bran before you bolt it, and then you will have near half a Peck in a Bushel more, than if you had bolted it as soon as ground; put it then in dry, and well-seasoned Casks, tread it in by degrees as hard as you can, head it close from the Air, and when you take any out, let no more be taken out than what you presently use, and so it will keep well a long time; but if it has come by Sea, or in rainy damp weather, then lay it abroad, on Sheets, and air it, and it will keep it sweet, and a little tainted, restore it.

To preserve Pease, or Fetches, which of all other Grain are most subject to rottenness, and imperfection, being of their own nature apt to breed Worms, Weavels, or Mites, through

through the too much sweetness of the Kernel of the Grain; to keep them then long and good conditioned, dry them either in a Kiln, or the Sun, especially those you use for Diet, or Provinder, and lay them in Graners or Floors that are dry, and they will last sound and good a long time, and not be subject to any corruption, or breeding Insects; lay them in thick heaps, and so they will be preserved moist the longer time; for if they be too much dried in the Air, by lying thin, it takes away part of their sweetness and goodness.

Beans is another Commodity very necessary and useful in this Nation; and therefore among others, the well-keeping and preserving them ought to be considered: These are more gross and fat than any I have heretofore spoken of, and by reason of the fulness of their substance, more subject to moisture, and such damp humours as corrupt them.

It is not therefore the best way to Thrash any more than what are for present use, till the middle of March; at which time, they having kindly sweat in the Mow, or Stack, and become dry and hard, not apt, without bad keeping, to relent again, then keep them either on plaister, or boarded Floors, or well-made earthen ones, the space of twelve days without tossing or turning; lay them as thick as you please, for being once well dried, they will not relent; or you may put them up in Barrels, especially such as have had sweet Oyl in them, and they will make them excellent good for the use of the Kitchen, if they be close covered and kept dry, by reason of a certain mellowness that will be infused into them, and they will keep as many Years as you would have them.

To keep and preserve all small Seeds of any nature or quality soever; gather them as soon as they are ripe, in a clear Sun-shiny Day, dry and wither them in the shade, keeping the Sun and moisture from them, then bind them up in bundles without thrashing, hang them up, and keep them in their own Cods, and they will last good a full Year.

In preserving of Lentils, or Lupines; lay them together on a boarded Floor, in large, broad and flat heaps, two Foot,

Foot, or two Foot and a half thick, sprinkle them with Vinegar and Lasarpitum, and not any change of Weather, or Vermin will do them hurt, and they will keep many Years; and although these are seldom used for humane Food, yet are they very profitable for the well feeding of Horses, Swine, and other Domestick Cattle, making them sooner fat than any other ordinary Pulse; they are also physical and good for many Medicines for remedying Diseases in Cattle, and the longer they are well kept, the more is their virtue; and therefore they ought to be well esteemed among other Grain or Pulse.

C H A P. XXXV.

How the best way to plant and order Hop-Vines, to a great Encrease and Improvement of Land.

SINCE Hops, (though formerly not esteemed, but accounted as a pernicious Weed) have in the latter Ages gained a general esteem, and barren Ground may be greatly improved by them, it will not be amiss to bestow one Chapter in this Book, in directions how they ought to be ordered and improved to the best advantage.

Consider then, that this Plant is very tender, and will not thrive to any advantage on too rich, or too poor a Ground; for in the first they grow up to rankness, bringing forth only Leaves and no Bells; in the second, very few Leaves or Bells, dwindling and coming to nothing.

If you have no other conveniency but the first, you must allay the fatness of your Hills by mixing Chalk with the Mould; or small Gravel, if it be hazle, or mixed Mould; and if it be stiff Clay, then with good store of red Sand; for any of these, in a little time, will lessen fertility.

But if the Soil be not of either of these, but extrem barren, then observe whether it lies high or low, or by any means subject to overflowings; if they be great, then is it unfit for Hop-Grounds; but moderate flowings may

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be averted by small Drains made through the Alleys, when the banks and hills are raised, convey the Water unto the lower Grounds, whereby it may not continue long, to soak and hurt the roots of the Plants; and where your necessity obliges you to chuse such Ground, you must raise your hills a great deal bigger and higher, that the overflowings, when they accidentally happen, may not exceed, in their rising, above the middle of the Hill, and so not send much wetness to the Root; and the Water not staying in the Alleys, but taking a swift current and draining through the Alleys will bring much fertility to the Land; but when you have eased your Land of these particular faults, the general one is Barrenness, and this is also to be removed, that it may be brought into a good and suitable temper; and therefore about *Michaelmas*, having cast up your Hills, and made your Alleys suitable, of four or five Foot breadth between hill and hill, not letting the hills stand directly behind one another; for so one
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 overshading another, which is a great annoyance; but it may be done according to this
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 Figure, where there is a sufficient largeness of
 place, and such a convenient passage, through
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 which the Sun may come, at all convenient times, to refresh the Plants, and make them prosper well.

The Ground being free from Water, it may be raised about two Foot and a half, and the compass answerable, neither too big nor too little, but shaped like a Sugar-loaf; yet so on the top, that the hill may be flat a little, to retain the Rain, or the thick Dews that falls upon it moderately, but shoot off the great abundance.

Make not the hills intirely of one Mould, but a third, or better of such Earth as you shall dig up under Dung-hills, and a little Soap-ashes drained from the Lye, and by mixing them together compound your Hop-hills; but if these are difficult to be got, sufficient for your purpose, then a third part of these, and two parts of natural Earth may be sufficient for your purpose, though the first is better; however it must then be renewed in three or four Years, or the strength of it will be lost: When your hills

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are made, pare up the green Swarth in the Alleys, about four fingers thick, and with it cover the outside of your hills almost to the top, turning the Grass-side next to the Earth of the hills, that rotting there, it may add to the manuring and and keeping them very warm; let there be so much space on the top of the hills as may contain the Plants, and the Poles that support them; only then, if the conveniency of getting it admit, rake dried Fern and spread it in the Alleys of a pretty thickness, so that rotting in the Winter, it will much comfort the Hill, and be good Manure against the Spring, which being then cast about them, will very much strengthen them, and make the Plants prosper.

The Hills being thus manured and cast up, open them at the top with a Setting-staff; crumble good Mould in, to lye loose at the bottom, and then put in the best Hop-Plants you can get, in every Hill, at the least four, being well prepared; putting them deep in the Earth, and covering them all over, at least four fingers thick; and if the Earth you cover them withal be mixed with Ox-blood, and a little slacked Lime, it will not only give much comfort to them, but preserve the roots from Worms and other Virmin.

Your Hop-ground being thus fitted, and planted in the Month *October*, which I account the best Season, let it rest till *April*; and when the Vines of your Hops come out of the Ground to a pretty length, then set up your Poles long and straight, of any convenient wholesome Wood; and in doing it, observe that in putting them into the Ground, and fastening them, you do not hurt the roots of the Hops; and when they are put into a depth, that they may stand firm, ram the Earth hard about them; and in the next place observe they are planted at that distance, that the Sun-beams may easily come in between them, and there be no overshadowing; this by a little practice may be perfected, and turn to great advantage: As for the number of Poles to be placed on every Hill, they must be answerable to the Vines that spring up; and you must twine the tendrills about them, so that growing up, they may of themselves wind and take fast hold, not leaving any

any to creep on the Ground, for they turn to no advantage.

As for weeding Hop grounds thus manured, there is little occasion for it, by reason the manure will destroy the Weeds; but if in despite of this any sprout, to annoy the tender scions, you must cut them, or pull them up by the roots, as in other weedings; and with this care, barren Ground will yield a vast advantage: However, before I end this Subject, it will be proper to tell you how to preserve them from Vermin as well when they are grown up also.

C H A P. XXXVI.

How to order Hop-Vines, gather and dry the Hops after the best manner, &c.

IF when the Vines rise on the Poles, any of them happen to break loose, you must twist them again towards the Sun-rising as much as may be, and those that mount above the Poles are accounted for the best; and if you perceive the Flies, or any other Insects to bite and afflict them, sprinkle the Vines with Water wherein Wormwood has been well boiled, and it will preserve them: In excessive hot weather, water the Hills about Sun-set, and continue it, if no Rain fall, till they Blow, which will be about St. *Margaret's* day, and at *Lamas-tide* they Bell.

When you observe them to turn colour, some sooner then the other, pull them though they be not ripe, lest they shed and come to nothing, as having met with some blast, or other defect; but when they naturally do so, and in a full Season are ready to pull, make a plain place in your Hop-ground, as near to the Hills as conveniency will permit, then cut the Vines close to the bottom of the Poles, bring them away, Poles and all, by cutting of the intanglements one with another with a hooked Knife at the end

end of a long Pole, and lay them down in order for those that are to gather them, to pick off the Eels, which must be done with much celerity, not suffering them to stay long unpulled, either in Rain or Sun shine.

During the gathering, prepare your Kiln, heated with Straw, or small dry Wood, and spread them on it in such good order, that they may easily dry, which you may know by their bitterness, or crumbling between your Hands; however never permit them to continue on the Kiln more then twelve hours, and keep hot your Kiln night and day, till your whole gathering is dried, and, taking them thence, let them lye on a Floor a Day or two, to give, before they are sacked, or bagged up, or else they will shed their Seed, wherein the greatest virtue lyes, and also the Leaves be apt to crumble and break off.

The Vines being cut away bare, and the Roots to the middle laid open, shake a little Mould mixed with Horse-dung, and let them continue so all the Winter; and in so ordering, an Acre in a Year that hits, which is certainly every third, will yield 1200 weight of Hops, and treble the charge you are at.

C H A P. XXXVII.

Flax and Hemp, good Improvers of Land. How to Manure the Ground for them, Sow, and Order them.

THere is great Improvement to be made on barren Land, by manuring it proper for the well-growing of Flax and Hemp, Commodities so useful and very profitable to this Nation: And for these you must, however, choose proper Grounds; for there are two sorts, that naturally refuse to bear these, viz. The rich, stiff, black, tough, and solid, fast Mould, whose extraordinary fertility, gives such an overplus of surcharge to the Seeds increase, that either, through rankness, it runneth all into Bun, and has
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little or no Rind, or else the Seed being tender, the Sod and heaviness of the Mould buries it, that it labours in vain to get out.

The other opposite to it, is the most extream barren Ground, which will not bear this, nor any good Seed; and of these I propose to treat, for such as will naturally bear them, I need not spend time upon.

As for the first of these then, though it is very good for Corn, yet for Hemp and Flax, it must be reduced; and to begin to do it, plough it up with a strong Plough, fit for such Ground; and about the middle of May, if the weather be seasonable, and the Ground not too hard, sow the Seed: If it be hard, you must wait for some gentle Showers, so that the Earth being mollified, then hack it after ploughing, and break the Clods in small pieces, then if you can get any salt Sea-sand, sand it plentifully over; but for want of that, sand it with the best red Sand you can get; and upon every Acre so sanded, sow three Bushels of Bay-salt, then plough it again, to mix well the Sand and Salt together; and this last ploughing is proper a little after Michaelmas, and then let it rest till Seed-time; and then ploughing and hacking over the Ground, sow it either with Hemp or Flax, as you think is most for your advantage; harrow it well into a fine Mould, and clot it with a Clotting-beetle; then, after the fall of the first great Shower, run it over with the backs of your Harrows, laying an indifferent weight upon them, to keep them close to the Ground, that they may break the small Clumpers, and smooth the Earth. If it be sown with Hemp, it need not be weeded at all, because this will out strip and choak them; but if with Flax, or Line, being a much tenderer Seed, bringing forth many more tender leaves and branches, then observe how the Weeds spring up, and pluck them away till the Flax is well sprung, and then it will conquer them, and not be overgrown by them.

As for the worst sort of Ground, you shall dress it as you do the clayey barren Ground, I have mentioned Chap. ----- beginning at the time of the Year there appointed; or indeed, if urgent occasions detain you from it, you may plough it up about Michaelmas, and so let it
rest

rest till *March*; and that being the proper Seed-time, plough it again, and manure it as the Clay-ground; hack it, and if the Earth be rough and stiff, harrow it before you sow it; that the Earth may be small, and as level as possible, breaking the Clots, if any remain, with your Clotting brede; then, after the first showers have well moistened it, go over it with an even, but very weighty Rowler, treading the Ground as little as may be, and the swifter it is drawn the better it will crumble the Ground under it.

As for Weeds here, you need not much trouble yourself, for the Earth purposely thus ordered, is an enemy to them, and will not put forth any; nor shall you have any trouble in dressing it above once in eight or ten Years; nor plough it after the first Year, but at Seed-times. If you can get with Drags, or Engines, the broad, black-leaved Sea-weed, called *Ore-weed*, growing in great tufts, abundantly about the Sea-shore, cover the Land with them, and so plough them in, as they may be buried to rot in the Earth, and they will be excellent Manure, giving much strength and heart to the Ground.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

To order Hemp and Flax, when Ripe, in many respects, to the best advantage.

HAVING thus treated on Hemp and Flax, as to the Sowing it to profit and advantage, not to omit my former method, I have thought fit to speak something briefly as to the ordering it when ripe, and gathered, as to the manner of rendering it useful.

Flax, when grown up to ripeness, is known by the yellowness and swelling of the Seeds on the top, at which time gather it, and bind it in little bundles, setting it in the Sun to dry, that the Seeds may fall out into a convenient place to gather up; and keep them for use, viz.

Either

Either for Sowing, feeding Birds, making of Medicines, Oyl, &c. And if they fall not out spontaneously, you must rake them out with an Iron Hatchel, or by beating with a Pole, Carding, or the like.

When you have done this, and the bundles are well dried, lay them in Water, and keep them from floating, by pressing them down with weights, and when you perceive the wet has made the Rind very loose, conclude them to be steeped enough; then take them out, unbind the bundles, and dry them in the Sun again, then peel off the Rind, and hatchel it on an Iron Hatchel fastened to a Block with many long Iron Teeth, and beat the Stalks till they become loose and pliant, so that they may in dressing, be drawn out into fine short threads, and dress them as the Rind, though upon finer Combs, or Hatchels; having for this purpose several degrees of them, as to fineness, anointing the Spikes, or Teeth, with Oyl, that they may slip the glibber; and so you may bring it fit for use in making Linnen-Cloth, &c.

Of Hemp there are two sorts, Male and Female, the first bears no Flower, but a Seed of divers Colours; the latter bears a Flower, the Stalk is full of knots, out of which, proceed many branches, sharp, jagged, or indented; the Roots of this descends into the Ground a very considerable depth, and therefore it requires deeper ploughing than the former, it growing very fast, and a prodigious height, in some Countries twenty or thirty Foot, and by reason of the dryness of its nature, requires Water at the Roots, or to be Sowed in somewhat a moist Ground; prospering the better, the thicker it is sown, and may be ordered and dressed, in all respects, like Flax; being very serviceable to the Nation.

C H A P. XXXIX.

How to plant and order Saffron for the improvement of Land, &c.

Saffron is not the least to be considered for the improvement of Ground, and is of excellent use in Medicines for comforting the Heart, and expelling all ill Vapours that have Death for their attendants, if not timely removed; and therefore, if for no other reason, it ought to be planted, cherished and improved: but there are others, for it brings great profit to the industrious Husband-man, greatly recompensing his labour, if care be taken about it, as those in *Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridge-shire*, where it grows in abundance, experimentally find.

It will grow upon indifferent Ground, with little manuring, if it be not stiff Clay, too cold or wet, but rather a compound, mostly inclining to red Sand, and somewhat Stony, though a fine mellow Mould produces it better; plough this well, and make the Mould small with the going over of Harrows, and beating the Clumpers; lay the Lands high, as for Wheat, with convenient ridges; then with an Iron Instrument like a Hoe, with a twelve or fourteen Inch'd broad Bit, draw the Furrows long ways, pretty deep, place your Roots, or Sets in them, (for from the Seeds no advantage arises, unless they are transplanted) let them be placed about two Inches one from other, and set about three Inches deep; then draw another Furrow so near, that the Mould turned out of it may cover the former Roots, and so one after another, till the whole be effected to your desire, but the last, into which you must draw what Mould comes next. The proper time of setting them, is the latter end of June, or beginning of July, leaving ranges, or spaces between the Furrows, that a small Hoe may pass to take away the Weeds. All Winter they will appear green, like Sixes, but in the

Sum

Summer, soon after the Flower decays, it appears to dry or wither.

In *September*, the Flowers being blew and lovely to behold, come up without any green leaves, or spires, and in the middle of each Flower you will find two, three, or four blades of Saffron standing upright, and at the same time the Flower spreads itself; and when you perceive them thus to put out, draw them forth between your Finger and Thumb, and put them into a thick, clean Linnen-bag, the better to preserve the scent; do this every morning, or otherways it will return into the Flower, or Earth, and you cannot, with any conveniency, come at it till the next morning; and this you may do for a Month together, the Flowers continually increasing, and therefore the number of your Saffron-pickers must be according to the quantity of your Crop, that it be gathered with expedition; no time but the morning being proper to do it in.

Saffron will grow to bear two successive Crops, but no more; for then you must transplant the younger Roots, and lay the elder aside, as useless. These Roots are commonly sold by the Bushel, and two Bushel of good ones will sufficiently furnish an Acre of Land so ordered as directed.

The Season for taking it up, is the beginning of *July*, or you may do it the latter end of *June*, if you see occasion. To dry Saffron, when gathered, you must make a Kiln of Clay, not quite half so large as a Bee-hive, though in form like it, with small Sticks laid over; and it must be tended with a moderate Charcole-fire, turned, and ordered, so that that it may dry well in every part: and to know when it is sufficiently dried, reduce three pound, as it grows wet or moist, to one when dried, and it is sufficiently ordered; and of a good Acre you may expect fifteen pound of well dried and good conditioned Saffron; though two pound, at the rate it goes, will much overbalance your charge and labour.

C H A P. XL.

Claver, or Clover-grass, how in the best manner to order the Seed, Sow and Increase it, for the improvement of Land.

THere are several sorts of Claver, called vulgarly, Clover-grass, from whence great advantage springs in the improvement of barren Land; it being my intent to encourage the industrious Husbandman in every thing that is convenient for improvement of this nature.

As for the Land proper for the increase of this, I hold that best, that is dry and warm; for though it be coarse, yet with a little Manure, it will produce excellent Grass of this kind: Land that has been sowed so often with Corn, that it will well bear it no longer without new dressing, will, nevertheless, serve this turn, especially earthy, well mixed Land, of a middle temper, with a little improvement, is excellent for it: You, for this, may manure it with Dung, Marl, Lime, or Chalk beaten small; and lastly, your natural cold Land so ordered, will turn to good improvement, if it be well drained to prevent overflowings, or the Water lying long upon it; and indeed, most sorts of Land well ordered, produce it, though some more in abundance than others.

And this I shall lay down for a general Rule, That the Land which is not too rank, or fat, for any sort of Corn, is not too good for this sort of Grass; but barren Land, without improvement by manuring, will not produce it to answer expectation: as for the ploughing, use it as directed for Fetches and Pullie, Chap. . . .

As for the great Claver, which is the best, the Seed of it is like that of Mustard-seed, but not so round, rather inclining somewhat to an oblong: The choicest of this is of a greenish yellow colour, some a little reddish, but the black is not so good; and therefore in the choice of your

Seed

Seed have a great care, for that is the main of the business to answer your cost and industry; and of this Seed we have as good among ourselves as any is brought from *Holland*, for what by their Kiln drying of it, and the Sea, in bringing it over, it many times, taking Salt-water, deceives the expectation of the Buyer, and answers little of the charge; and to get it out of the Husk, which is somewhat difficult by thrashing or beating, it may be milled out with Stones, not too sharp, and hanging at a proper distance, that they may bruise the Husks but not the Seeds; yet, since it is to be had ready taken out, I shall not trouble the honest Country-man about this particular, for, if he has none of his own he must buy it, and try a little of it, whereby you may see how it will spring up, that you may not be frustrated in your Labour and Expence; a Gallon, or twelve Pound, is sufficient to Sow an Acre well, if it be lightly distributed, and if you Sow some of the Chaff of the Husk with it, it will thrive the better; and, that it may fill the Land the better, to spread, mix with it some fine Earth, or fine Ashes, that the Wind may not scatter away more to one place than to another, for it being so very small, you cannot see how it lies on the Land, to know whether it is equally distributed; then again, it will not, as Corn, be drawn even by the Harrow; when it is not so, it must be sowed then in calm Weather, that the Wind may not have power to drive it, but that it may fall incidentally to the Ground: You may sow Barley, or Oats with it, and the first Year it will not grow up so far as to hinder them; but then they must not be sowed so thick as in other cases, and when they are harrowed in, and this Seed sown, after a gentle harrowing, or the drawing over of White-thorn Bushes, will sufficiently cover it, and it will last on the Ground many Years: The best time to sow it, is the end of *March*; or the beginning of *April*, if it be likely to be a dry Season; late sowing may do in a fruitful Season, but early is most certain; and in this manner, on Ground where it takes, it will bear three Crops, two to Mow and one to Graze, the first by mid-*May*, the second about the end of *August*, and then by the beginning of *October* it will be grown up for Grazing, which you may continue

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till

till *January*; it is best cut moderately green, when the Sap is in the Stalk and Leaf, and then, being well dried, renders it the sweeter and most nourishing, unless you keep it for Seed alone, and then it must grow up to its full growth, and be very dry, but then Stalks are good for little more than Fuel; however, the Seed, if well got out, will recompence the charge.

It is a very good feeder of Cattle, increasing Milk in Kine, and fattens Oxen above any other Grass, as being of a fat, sweet, and luscious nourishment; and sow a good Acre the second Year's growth for Mowing, and Feeding will return you the advantage of twelve Pounds, which is sufficient profit, seeing it will grow upon Grounds of twenty Shillings an Acre, or under, very well, and last good forty five Years, with a little manure; and one advantage is in it, that when it dwindles it prepares the Land for Corn, so that one under another it comes to great profit.

CHAP. XLI.

St. Foin, or French-Grass; Directions for Sowing, Ordering and Improving it on Land.

THere is another kind of this sort of Grass that turns to good advantage, and that is *St. Foin*, originally a *French* Grass, so far as I can gather by the first Improvement of it, sowed then upon dry husky Lands, and sometimes in their Gardens; it yields to Cattle, that feed on it, abundance of Milk, and will grow and prosper in any barren hilly Land, though it thrives better upon Land that is moderately manured with Dung, Marl, or Chalk; and when it has grown seven Years, the Root so spreads, that being ploughed in, it becomes excellent Manure to prepare the Land for Corn.

The Seed of it is mostly like a Parsnip-seed, only a little browner, rounder, and fuller; you must, by reason it is

bigger

bigger, sow more in quantity than that of Claver, for the smaller the Seed is the further it spreads in the Ground, so that a Pound and a half of this, or somewhat more, will go no further than a Pound of the other, for the thicker and closer it grows, the better it stocks the Ground.

The manner of sowing it may be with Barley, or Oats, and being mowed with them, may be used as good feed, but the separating I hold the best; it may, the first sowing, be mowed the latter end of the Year, and so preferred for a good Crop five or six Years after, and then the Spirit decaying, the common Grass will overcome it, and by that time it has prepared the Earth-fit for Corn again.

There is also another Grass, by the *French*, called the *La-lacine*, which is exceeding good Fodder, and this will well grow on dry and barren Lands, but this is not very common, nor has any considerable improvement been made of it in this Kingdom; however, it may be proper for barren Lands of little value for any thing else, and an experiment would not be amiss to improve it; for, by industry, through the blessing of God, all the Improvements we have, have been brought to pass to the enriching and plentifully feeding the Nation, whilst Sloth would have brought Poverty and Want.

CHAP. XLII.

Improvement of Land, by Sowing and Well-ordering Turnips.

Turnips are a great improvement of Land; for, beside the advantage they yield in selling, for the kitchen, and the feeding Cattle and Swine, the Roots and leaves may be brought to rot on the Ground, and become good Manure; besides, they hinder not the first Crop, specially of Pease, Beans, or Barley, but being sown when they are taken off, grow and flourish in the Winter,

ter, and are properly drawn before Barley, or Oats Seed time, though you may sow two Crops, the early and the latter. The Seed being small, may for the better, and more even spreading of it, be mixed with fine Mould, or to prevent the Bugs, or Worms eating it in the Ground, with Wood-ashes; they require, if the Ground has been well broke up, but a light plowing, but to be well harrowed, that the Birds destroy not the Seed, which if you perceive to have been done, by the barrenness of one place more than another when they come up, you may sow that again, and there will be little difference in their coming to perfection. They delight in, and prosper best in a mellow Ground, or a mixture of Sand and Clay; black Mould is exceeding good to produce them, for if the Ground be hard their roots will not spread, or come to their full natural perfection.

Of these very useful Roots there are two sorts, both of one kind, that is, the round, or bulbous, and the long Parsnip Turnip, but the first is the most numerous and the smallest sown in Fields.

When you have sowed and harrowed the Seed, laying the Land as even and level as may be, go over it with a Rowler of weighty Wood to press it in and break the remaining Clods, that the growing Seed may the easier pass through it, and when they are pretty well come up and the leaves begin to spread, they must be diligently hoeed over, and the underlings culled out, by cutting them even with the Ground, or somewhat lower, that the principal Plants may receive the Sun and Air, more freely and thrive the better; and, when they are grown larger, if they appear too thick, they must have a second hoeing, and then the tops will spring up again, and the roots have more Earth to spread in. If you find a black sort of Caterpillar to light on them when they come up first green, or grow a little height, which poison and eat their leaves, by that means hindering their growth, you cannot flow them for a time with Water to drown these Insects, go over them with a great heavy wood Rowler, taking care that the Horse, with his Feet, spoil as few as may be, and the weight of this Rowler bearing

tops hard to the Ground, will crush the Insects to death; and if this be done in a dry time, when they are in this manner mostly infected, the tops, with the heat of the Sun and a little sprinkling of Rain, will rise again, and flourish more than ever.

To preserve the best Seed for the next Year's sowing, take a considerable number of the fairest and largest Turnips, free from Worm-eaten, Stringyness, rough-Rinds, or Warts, and transplant them to a good Soil when they are growing to Seed, covering them pretty high with Earth, that is, about four Inches above the Root, setting them a Foot and a half distance, and water them a little, if the Weather be very dry, and so let them run to Seed; then cut off the Stalks when the Seeds loosen and begin to rattle in the Pods, and, having well dried them in the Sun, put them into a large Hop-sack, and by beating them with a flannel bag that the Seed will come out, which you may sift, or winnow from the Husks, and lay it up in a moderate dry place for your next Year's use, sowing it as before, and ordering in all particulars, where required, as directed, and you will have Winter-stores for yourself, plenty for your Cattle, and the like for the Market, if you live near any good Towns; this being a very wholesome, moist, cooling, and nourishing Root, good against Fevers and other hot Diseases, allaying the acrimony of the Blood.

C H A P. XLIII.

Improvement of Land by Sowing of Carrots, and how to well order them, &c.

Carrots are very wholesome nourishing Roots, and by them Land may be well improved, but in every place they will not prosper, as mostly delighting in warm sandy-ground, mixed with a moderate fruitful light mould, and if you sow them in any other it must be well manured and manured, but where you find a natural light

and warm Ground, if it be but indifferently fertile, they will, however, thrive therein; you may sow them in intervals between Beans or Pease, laid in Furrows, and so reap two advantages with a little more labour and cost, the one not hindering the other, for as much as the Carrots are ready to draw, the others will be taken off the Ground, and though in doing it, some of the tops may be bruised in trampling, they will recover and spring up again.

The Land these are sowed in should be rather digged than ploughed, or if the latter, it must be very deep, to give the Roots leave to grow to a full length and bigness.

When you have sowed the Seed about the middle of *March*, or much sooner, if the Weather be open, you must, if you sow them between any rows of other Seed, rake them in with an Iron-rake, so that they may be very well covered, and they must lye dry, for too much wet and moisture perishes the Seed, or Roots; for, though the Seed be hot and requires some moisture, yet a great deal destroys its natural heat, and kills it; you may sow them thin to save the trouble of hoeing, but if they come up very thick, contrary to your expectation, they must be hoed; they also require weeding till the tops surmount the Weeds, and then they will of themselves destroy them.

The best sort of these are the deepest yellow, or red, the faint yellow are fit only for the Summer Season, not fit to grow to any bigness, as the others; if the Ground be sterile you must manure it ere you sow the Seed: In Sand you may well keep them all the Winter, for Sale your Table, and to fatten Swine.

C H A P. XLIV.

Improvement of Land by Sowing of Parsnips, and the well-ordering them.

PARSNIPS are a good improvement, where they will kindly grow, and come up to a proportionable bigness; they are a Root of a luscious, oyley taste, wholsom, and extraordinary fattening.

The Seed of this is proper to be sown in the Spring, and is much delighted in rich mellow Ground, which must be digged deep, that the Root may the easier shoot downward and grow thick to full proportion; many Fields, with a little manuring, will produce of these a great encrease, and turn Land to a wonderful advantage, where there is good Sale for them, over and above the Offal that will fatten Swine, and as much as will suffice the Family; when they are grown to any bigness you may turn Cattle into the Field, whose brouzing on, and treading down the tops, will make the Roots prosper the better.

This Seed must be sown deep as can be, well raked in; they require little moisture, and therefore may be sown upon raised Lands, like Beds, and being taken up with a large Spade, that is, in length, they may as soon as cleaned from the Earth be set to Sale, or else you may keep them a long time in good dry Sand, cutting off their tops to prevent their growing.

Another useful thing that may make good improvement, though not in such a general manner, are Potatoes; these being once in the Ground will spread extremity, and if a Root be cut in many pieces it will every part of it grow; they are very nourishing and wholsom to the Stomach, and a little piece of any ordinary Ground will produce a sufficiency for the use of many Families a whole Winter, and many succeeding Winters, their encrease be-

ing very great; but you must not sow them in Stoney Ground, for that will much hinder their growth, and make them wrinkled and ill-favoured.

C H A P. XLV.

Improvement of Land by Sowing Weld, or Would, and how to order it.

THere are other Improvements, though not so common, that make good returns of Land and Labour, which (designing to Write a perfect Book of this nature) I think not convenient to omit; and first of Weld, or Would, a rich and profitable Commodity for Dying; it beareth a long, narrow, greenish, yellow Leaf, and produces a yellow Flower, running to a small Seed, and is very thick set with them, smaller than a Mustard-seed; it flourishes in *June* and *July*, growing in some places of itself, and is produced on very indifferent Land, hardly fit for any thing else without much manuring, so it be very dry and warm by nature.

It costs but little the managing, as requiring no Tillage, it being to be sowed when and where you sow your Barley and Oats, upon that Husbandry, without any addition, unless drawing a few Bushes with weights over it, or pressing it into the Earth with a Roller; sow it even, for the Seed being small will require skill in this, therefore mix Ashes or fine Earth with it, that it may spread the better when well mingled with either of them.

A Gallion of this Seed is sufficient to sow an Acre, adding, for the better spreading, two Gallions of Earth, or Ashes, to every Quart; stir the Composition often, to mix it, lest the Seed sink to the bottom and so deceive you; cast it out at arm's end in as even a compass as possible, and in the Summer you will receive a good Crop; and when it comes to ripening, be curious in observing it, for if you let it grow too long the Seed will fall out; if not long enough

nough, neither that nor the Stalk will be perfect; and therefore note, both the ripening of the Seed and the turning the Stalks; and when you perceive it properly ripened, pull it up by the roots, bind it in little bundles, placing them in little shocks, that the Sun and Air may freely penetrate to dry them; and in housing, be careful not roughly to use it, lest the Seed fall out; and by this, well ordered, there is considerable profit to be gained, as ten times the charge and price of the Land, if it comes to a good Market.

The Seed may be thrashed out with small Poles, or Wands, on a clean boarded Floor, so close joynted that they cannot run into the crevices, which may be reserved for sowing again; it colours a bright yellow and a lemon-Colour, excellently well, and with the Stalk the Root must go, being of the same efficacy; and a great pity is it, that it is not more improved, since it may employ store of Land that lies in a manner altogether useless.

C H A P. XLVI.

Improvement of Land by Sowing of Woad, and how to order it, &c.

Woad is another useful and very profitable Commodity, laying the foundation and solidity of very many Colours, and a Woad-red Colour is free from staining, excellent for holding its colour, and almost every sad holding Colour must be Woad, therefore it consequently is of great use and advantage in Dying. The Stalk is small and tender, the Leaves of a blue green Colour, the Seeds is like to the Ash-keys, or Seed, but not so long, like little blackish Tongues, the Root simple and white, it beareth a yellow Flower.

This, contrary to the other, requires very rich Land, that is warm and sowed, either a little Sandy or Gravelist

will do, though the purer warmer solid Earth is the best; Land exceeding rich, though it should be mixed with a little Clay, is also proper, if warm; in great deep rich Pastures, many hills and hill-sides are good Woad-land, when the bottom ground will not serve it; but the principal Ground is the Home-Close, or better Ground, lying near about, and bordering on Towns. The best natural parts of this Kingdom for Woad, are some parts of *Worcestershire* and *Warwickshire*, *Oxfordshire*, *Northamptonshire*, *Gloucestershire*, *Leicestershire*, and *Buckinghamshire*, with some other places.

The Ground for this must be choicely ploughed, and if very hilly, they must be cast well, that they may lye even and fair on the superficial part of the Earth, and then well harrowed; about four Bushels will sufficiently sow an Acre, which done, you must cover it with a Harrow very fine, and break all the Clots, picking the Stones and Rubbish off the Ground, that it may come easily up; the proper time of sowing is in the middle, or towards the end of *March*.

After the Land is sowed and it begins to spring up, as soon as any Weeds appear they must be taken out, and be from time to time kept as free from them as may be, and when the Leaf is come to full growth, which will be some times sooner, and at others later, as the seasonableness of the Year produces, dryer or moister, you must cut it up and carry it to the Mills to be ground, and when it is so, make it up in little Balls and dry them well for use: And good Woad, in a seasonable Year, may very probably yield five or six Crops, and ordinarily four and three, and the Winter Crop is excellent for Sheep, keeping them from the Rot and many other Diseases; it likewise, contrary to the Opinion of some, prepares the Ground very well for Corn, and good Estates have been gotten by it: The best Woad has been sold from twenty to thirty Pound a Tun.

CHAP.

CHAP. XLVII.

Improvement of Land by sowing Madder, and how to order it.

Madder is a very good improver of Land, and is much used in Dying, there is but one kind of it which is manured and set for use, but there are many things like it, as Goose-grass, soft Cliver, Crosswort, Ladies, Bedstraw, &c, which have all Leaves like Madder, and are supposed to be a wild kind of it; it has long Stalks and trailing Branches on the Ground, rough and full of joints, and every joynt set with green rough Leaves, in the manner of a Star; the Flowers grow on the top of the Branch, of a faint yellow Colour, after which, comes the Seed round and green; the Root creeps far in the upper Crust of the Earth, one Root entangling into another, and when it is green and fresh the Root is of a reddish Colour, small and tender; and although it bears a Seed, yet in this Country it comes not to perfection, and therefore it must be planted from the Sets that are to be gotten from the Madder; and the Season of getting, or drawing them is *March* and *April*, as soon as they are sprung out of the Ground about three Inches, every Sucker having some spines of Roots growing from it, being split from the main Root; as soon as you have drawn them, put them into a convenient Basket with some fine Mold, and hasten them to the Ground where they are to be set, for the sooner they are set the better they prosper.

The Ground they best thrive in, must be very rich, warm and a deep Soil, digged two Spades grafts and two wovelings also; and when it is raked and laid very even, then draw very streight Lines, or Furrows, trod out in long Beds about four Foot broad, from one end of your Work unto the other, set them about one Foot asunder every way, and if it be a dry Spring they must be kept wa-

watering till they recover their fading wan Complexion.

You may begin to dig your Ground in the beginning of Winter, and so all along, to the time of setting, weed it and hoe it till it have got the mastery of the Weeds, and then it will destroy them: Set them by a Line for a good evenness with a Setting-stick, crumbling in light Mold to fill up the vacancy, and if any die you must fill up the vacancy, for they come not to their natural perfection under three Years, and the first and second Year keep them hoing, and you may gather Sets from them almost as many as you have set, for the Root will bear it, by taking firmness in the Ground, and well spreading; so that these Sets will in the mean time supply other Grounds.

C H A P. XLVIII.

Wood-land and Inclosures Improved, and the great Advantage made thereby.

Inclosures and Wood-land are of great advantage to the Husbandman, not only in supplying him with Timber for his own use in Building and Sale, but with Underwood for Hedging, Fuel and the like, for himself and Neighbours, to encrease Enclosures and pass away the bitter cold of the Winter with keeping good Fires; besides Trees may be planted, and will flourish in places where Corn, or Grass, or any other profitable thing will not kindly grow; besides when the Lands are cleared of Woods they prove much better, and yield greater plenty of Corn, with a little Manure, than many that have been long tilled lying round about them; they also yield pleasant and delightful prospects to the Eye, serve as cool shades to retreat in in the Summer, and in the Winter prove shelters to the Houses, Barns and Lands lying near them, from the cold nipping Winds; and in Woods, by their warmth, Grass in the vacant places springs all the Year,

Year, on which Sheep will feed well and grow fat, being by that means preserved from the cold and rot; likewise well grown Woods, in most places, produce Mast, Holm, Acorns, Hazle-nuts, Services, Medlers and the like; which, either falling of themselves, or being diligently beaten down, feed a great number of Swine to a considerable fatness.

Lands of small value may be, by planting of Trees, brought to grow up to considerable Estates; I find it confirmed by several, that Land not computed to be worth ten Shillings an Acre *per Annum*, has by this manner of improvement produced, at eleven or twelve Years growth, as much Wood as was fell'd from one Acre 60 *l.* And indeed, Morish Boggy-lands, that cannot be drained, or otherways improved to any profit or advantage, being planted with Osiers, Willows, Alder, Poplar, or the like Trees, that affect and cover moist Ground, return in a little time to a great advantage for many uses, growing very fast, so that they turn to great advantage. It has been known that a hundred Ashes, at the growth of fifty Years, have been sold for 500 *l.* and these growing too on a very small compass of Land, which they but little incumbered; and I find it set down, that a person planted so much Wood that, in his own life time, was valued at 50000 *l.*

These great incomes and encreases, methinks, should give many encouragement to imitate our Predecessors, that, as we find the advantage of their labours and industry, so Ourselves and our Posterity may find the like of our own; and for the better, quicker, and least chargeable improvement of these things, I shall lay down plain and easie Rules.

C H A P. XLIX.

Of Oak, Elm, and Beech, how to Order and Improve them for the best advantage.

AS for the *English Oak*, among others, for firmness and durableness, it is counted the best Timber in the World for building Houses, Shipping, and other necessary uses, and yet it will grow in any indifferent Land, good or bad, as Clay, Gravel, Sand, mixed, or unmixed Soils, dry, cold, warm or moist, but they most affect, and best prosper in the sound, black, deep Mold, a little rising, rather warm than over moist and cold, for this produces the firmest and best Timber, though they will thrive very well in cold, moist Clay-grounds; they will also grow, though but slowly, on high, stony, and barren Hills, some sow Acorns in their Nurseries, when they are ripe, but not dried, and these produce store of young Plants in the Spring, if sowed in Autumn, which may be removed the next Year, and planted in forms for Groves, Woods, or Lawns; but I hold the Slips and Plants got from the roots of Oaks thriving, and of a moderate age, are better, and will much sooner come to perfection, if planted and fenced from the brouzing of Cattle, the nipping northern Wind, whose unreasonable cold in Winter does much hurt to young Plants; and if any of your Plants be crooked, or ill-shapen, cut those near to the Ground, when you set them, and other Shoots will spring up from them, that will grow straight, and become very aspiring in time: Oaks likewise prosper very well in Coppices, especially to be siled as Under-wood; beside the Wood of these Trees for various uses, the Bark is of good value, and for Tanners and Dyers use, not to be omitted; nay, the Saw-dust and Ashes are of value; so that there is no loss in any part of it, that is not proper for some use or other;

other; in Charcoal it is the best of all Wood, and endures wet and dry to a long continuance.

The next of use to this in *England* is the Elm, chiefly planted in Hedge-rows, casting a good shade against the scorching of the Sun, and proving a notable shelter against cold Winds, growing much faster than the Oak; it grows well in most Grounds that are not hot, dry, and parching, Chalk, Gravel, and shallow Lands, for in them its large spreading Roots cannot well enter, and it requiring much Sap will not otherwise thrive, or come to any stateliness of perfection: It delights mostly in light, level, and loose Land that is moist, and on the Banks of such levels as are fertile Ground. The Seeds of the Elm, as they are termed, which put out before the Leaves, in open weather, fall about the beginning of *March*, which, some hold, being sown in a Nursery, will yield store of young Plants; but I like those better that spring out of the Ground from the spreading Roots, that lye shallow some distance from the Tree, a great many of which may be easily taken up with Spurns, and some part of the main Root upon them, and these are called Suckers, being, at the proper seasons, to be had in abundance, and these you may transplant into any place where it is proper for Elms to grow.

Take not those Suckers that have been bitten, or bruised by Cattle, for they will not grow kindly, and these are easily transplanted with success, seldom failing: If they be young, you need not cut off the tops, because, being very sappy, the wet will enter and decay the Plant; but, if of considerable growth, you may cut them as you please, making a stiff mixture of Clay and Horse-dung to lay firm on the cut places to defend them from the decending Rain, which would otherwise soak into the Wood and injure the Plant. Some have a way, and with good success, to remove large Elms the quicker, to make a shade about their Houses, or shelter their Grounds, by opening the Earth about the Root of one of fifteen, sixteen, or twenty Years growth, cutting off the spreading roots about a Foot and a half, and leaving only the stump-root to draw Sap up, then cover it again, and if it appear with no visible decay, the next Year they remove it, when the Sap is well
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rising, and clap it into a Ground made better and more apt to receive it than where it first grew, setting the Root deep; and covering it with good Earth; so that pleasant Groves of this have suddenly been erected where Trees have been scanty, to the great admiration of those that have known the places bare a little before, and seen Trees of a stately growth flourishing, so that at first they could scarcely believe their Eyes and Senses, it was the same place. This way is likewise easie to be taken by Willows and other light Wood, which will grow from great Poles without Coats, if set in agreeable moist places.

The Elm is a Wood much lasting, wet or dry, and serves for a great many uses, growing to a prodigious height, affording great store of Fuel and Timber, and is best felled between *November* and *February*, as being then all spine and heart, the Sap being gone down to the Root, and being very tough and lasting, it serves for the use of Wheel-wrights, Plough-wrights, making of Carts, Building, Planks, Coffins, and many other uses; the young Sprays are good for Cattle, Conies, or Deer to browse on, and the bigger Boughs make good Charcoal, and as it is common, so it is of very great use.

The next to this is Beech, formerly greatly in use for Building, delighting in warm Land, and growing to great stature, casting a lovely shade, so that in former days it was usually planted about Princes Palaces, though it delights most in the sides and tops of high Hills, &c. and the roots will wonderfully penetrate stony places.

Where large Oak-Woods have been felled, Beech-Trees have been known to spring up in abundance, none growing there before. This is raised from the Mast, as the Oak, and from young Plants, planted as the Oak; when young it grows but slow, but when it has got a head it mounts and spreads apace, none sooner attaining to a large bulk than this Tree; and, though whilst young, it may happen to be crooked, knotty, and ill-shapen, yet growing to a good body it will overcome these defects, and be straight and a very compleat Tree.

This

This Wood is of great use for Joiners, Turners, Upholsterers, and formerly much used in building and flooring, being clean, white, not apt to rend, or split; it is good Fuel, burning clear and light, making excellent good Charcoal, though not lasting; the Mast of it feeds Deer, Swine, and many sorts of Fowl, Pheasants particularly delight in it and grow fat upon it; the Wood, with fine Saws, being cut into Scabboard, or Scale-boards, very thin, serve for many uses. It makes good Blocks for rigging of Ships, and many other Materials belonging to Navigation.

This Tree planted in Walks and Avenues, casts a very pleasant and delightful shade all Summer, few or none exceeding it for colour or coolness.

The leaves of this Tree gathered in Autumn, before the frost has nipped them, are excellent to lay under Beds, as Mattresses, keeping them cool, and free from Insects; they cast a pleasant smell, and will keep so seven Years.

CHAP. L.

Of Ash, Walnut and Chestnut-trees, &c. Their Improvement and well-ordering.

THE Ash is another very profitable Tree for Timber and Fuel, being of a quick and thriving growth; it delights in good Land, though almost in any other it will thrive, as barren Mountains, Land hardly fit for any other use, but the much spreading of the roots where they stand, near Arable Land, hinders the Plough, and the Water dropping from them much injures the Corn; but Woods, Coppices, Wastes, &c. may be replenished with them, they usually growing better where other Timber has been fell'd, or decay'd by a long growth.

In White and Chalky Land they prosper very well, as it appears by those of a very large stature growing on such Lands in *Wiltshire*, *Hampshire*, and other Counties in *England*; the Lops and Timber turning to a very great advantage.

These

These Trees may be propagated of the Keys sown, gathered in *October*, or after, when they are about falling off from the most thriving Trees: These may be sowed in a Nursery, and the Spring come twelve-month they will be fit to transplant to such places as you design for a continued growth; but this, as of all other Trees, is a slow way, and therefore I advise rather to get young Sets of a moderate size; and cut not off the young tops, because they are very sappy, if it be of the Seed, but if of the young Plants, you may cut them near the Ground, and if they take good root, as they will soon do, you need not fear but they will send up young Shoots and grow apace; and if any of them be grown up, and decay, if you cut them near the Ground they will revive and sprout up with more speed, and flourish exceedingly.

If you intend to have a Grove of Ash on a Hill, or in open Ground, set the Seeds in rows with a Setting-stick, after the Ground has been lightly broke up, let them be at some distance, and many Seeds in a hole, that some may infallibly hit; and without transplanting, they will in a few Years spring to a good height; but if many Plants come up in one place, remove the underlings, that the main Plant may grow the freer, by being disencumbered; but beware that Cattle destroy them not when young. You may plant them among other Trees that are grown pretty well, to defend them from their broodings, and from the biting cold.

The use of this Wood is almost general, is proper in Building, where seasoned, or well dried; it stands the Plow-wright and Wheel-wright in great stead; Coopers and Turners are much profited by them for Poles; it is excellent either for the supporting Hops, or any aspiring things that cannot, without help, support themselves, and serves the Husbandman and Gardiner for many Tools and Utensils; it is used in many things about Shipping, and in Maritime Utensils; as for Fuel, it burns sweet, wet, or dry, leaving curious white Ashes behind them, and little earthy parts: The Leaves stamped, and laid to the bite of any venomous Beast, draws out the Poyson; and with success the Juice of the Leaves are drank against any Poyson inwardly received. The

The Season for setting the Ash, for the best growth, is from the end of *October*, or beginning of *November*, till *January*; for if the Sap at setting be but a little in the Tree, the Worm takes it and hinders the growth very much, spoiling in the end the Timber. I have been credibly informed, that an Ash at forty Years growth from the Key, or Seed, has been sold standing, for thirty Pounds, and the Person who bought it got ten Pounds by it, when cut out into Timber and Fuel.

As for the Walnut, Chestnut, and Service-Trees, they are proper to the Woods, yet bear Fruit very advantageous to the owner.

As for the Walnut, it grows best on Hills, where the Ground is tolerably good, in a curious Sandy, or Gravelly Soil; and, beside the Fruit that is delicious and nourishing, making good Oyl for sundry uses, the Wood is of great esteem for Gun-stocks, Cabinets, In-laying, and many other things. This Tree grows of Sets, or Nuts, to a prodigious bigness, though it rises not so fast as the Ash; and if you design their propogation by Nuts, after you have laid them to sweat, enter them in Sand, and at a Month's end put them into Water, and those that swim lay aside as useless, but such as sink, dry them and lay them in Sand a Month more, and then, in the beginning of the Spring, set them, and they thrive best unmoved, therefore set them at a distance one from another, and when they grow up fit for transplanting, if occasion require it, mark the quarters of the Winds, as they stand, on the Bark, and place them, when removed, directly the same way; Slips may be taken from the Roots of the growing Walnut-Trees as they are well-springing up, with some little of the Root and Bark with them, and set in Sandy, or a mixed Soil, &c.

The Chestnut-Tree was formerly very flourishing in *England*, as appears by many eminent ancient Buildings, whose Timber mostly consists of that Wood, being very firm and durable. These may be raised from Nuts as the former, viz. spread them when they are so ripe that they drop from the Tree, and let them sweat a while, then use them, in all respects, as the Walnut, set them at a distance in

in a mixed Soil, for they thrive best unmoved. You may set them in Winter or Autumn, in or without their husks, or you may sow them with other Mast for the raising of Coppices.

It is a very thriving Tree, producing extraordinary good Poles for divers necessary uses, and in ten or twelve Years time grow to a kind of Timber, and bear plenty of Nuts. This Timber, for durance and service, is next to Oak; being planted in Hedge-rows, or Avenues, it yields a pleasant shade and ornament.

The Service-Trees are raised from the Berries, as other Mast may be, which, being ripe, may be sown as other Mast, and they will grow apace; or you may draw young Plants in Woods where they are overshadowed by other, more spreading Trees, and cannot well come to their growth; they cause a beautiful shade, and the Berries cause good digestion; the Wood is useful for Joyners, as being of a very delicate Grain, fit for many uses; it also yields Beams of a considerable bigness.

The Birch is another Tree very useful and profitable, and will grow almost on any Land, so that barren Land may be much improved by it: It will thrive on hot burning Sand, in cold moist Clay, and in marshy Ground, Boggy, or Stony places; this is properly produced by Suckers, which may be planted at five or six Foot distance, and they will grow a great pace, rising, as it were, suddenly to Trees; after the first Year they may be cut within an Inch of the Ground, and they will shoot out very strongly. This Tree yields excellent Sap in great quantity, and being prepared with Honey, or Sugar, into a Wine, is very medicable, as well as a pleasant innocent Liquor, called Birch-wine.

It may be extracted by cutting some small Branches when the Sap rises, in the end of February and beginning of March, the Weather being open, and especially when the Wind is at South, or West, hanging Bottles at the cut Branches to receive the cristaline Liquor; or you may bore the Tree and tap it; and by this means you may get great quantities, it flowing forth very freely. The small Branches of this Tree turn to great advantage in making Brooms,

Brooms, Whisks, Wickers, and many other uses they are put to; the Timber is likewise very good, and the greater Brances make good Poles.

C H A P. LI.

Of the Maple, Horn-beam, Quick-beam, Hazle, Box, Juniper, Holly, and Fir-Trees, how to Order and Improve them.

There are yet other Trees useful, either for Fuel or shade, that turn to the advantage of the industrious Husband-man.

The Maple. This requires a dry and sound Mold, growing in Hedge-rows very well, as also in Woods and Groves; it may be propagated by Sets, or the Keys of the Ash. The Timber is much esteemed for its whiteness, and the Diaper-knots found in it serving for Trenchers, Bowls, and many other Litenfils, and much esteemed in Joyner's Work.

Horn-beam much affects the open parts of Woods, and set in Walks or Avenues, produces a pleasant shade. It will grow indifferently on any Soil, it must be set deep, and the Sets may be about two Inches in compass in the middle; it may likewise be raised of those Seeds that are ripe in August, if sown in October: But since most Woods yield sufficient Plants, I like the setting them best, for the greater expedition. The Timber is very hard, and therefore useful for Wheel-wrights, or making Tools for Rural uses.

Quick-beam prospers best in good light Ground, though it delights in Mountains and Woods; Plant the young Sets as the former, or it will grow from the Berries that are found ripe about the middle of October; it grows apace in Woods and Coppices, yielding excellent Fuel, and is good for divers other uses.

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The Hazle, though of great value for the Nuts, yet is a Wood-tree, affecting, above others, dry, barren, and cold sandy Ground; likewise Rocky and Mountainous Soils produce them, though they thrive much better in Hedgerows, where the Sun has power to invigorate them.

This Tree is properly raised from the Nut, preserved moist, but not moldy; and to do it, you may lay them in their own dry Leaves, or in Sand: These ought to be set about the latter end of *February*; but, as in the case of all other Trees, young Sets, or Suckers, will soonest grow; but cut not these the first Year, but the Spring following, within three or four Inches of the Ground, that is, if your Sets be small; but greater Sets may, the first Year, be cut within six Inches of the Ground.

The Hazle, though it seldom grows to substantial Timber, is yet very profitable for the bearing of Nuts, for the feeding of Swine, and pleasant for the Food of Man, out of which, is likewise extracted a curious Oyl. They produce curious Poles and Rods, make Fishing-tackle, and divers other Instruments; also the Under-stems, and Sprays, good Charcoal, and Fuel, and is a good shade and ornament to Walks. When the Nut-trees flower much, it is a sign of a plentiful Corn-harvest.

The Box-tree is of a great use, though of slow growth; it will grow on any indifferent Land, and is encreased by slips; it keeps green all the Year, and gives a very pleasant prospect; the Wood is of singular use, and bears a great price, being usually sold by weight: So that a Grove of well-grown Box of six Acres has been sold for 3000*l*. the least part of this sort of Timber being fit for one use or other, and too precious to be committed to the Flames.

The Juniper-tree covers to grow on hilly and gravelly Ground, the Wood, Leaf, and Berries, are medicinal; it may be sowed of the Berry, or set of small Slips; it lasts green all the Winter, and in burning casts a curious scent: It is proper to make fine Boxes, Cabinets, and other curious Works; the Scent of it keeps away Worms and Moths; its Gums, or the sweating of it, is good against pains in the Stomach, or Heart, and prevents infectious Air.

Holly

Holly is a tough Wood, keeps green all the Year, and carries on it in Winter, a curious red Berry, it thrives in any indifferent Ground, and may be set by Slips, or Berries; the Wood, if large, yields a good price.

The Lime-tree must be planted in an indifferent rich Soil, for it will not thrive in hungry, cold, dry Land; it is raised as Suckers from the Elm, or from Seeds, or Berries that drop in Autumn from the Trees, and these are mostly used for ornament in Walks, casting a lovely shade, though in Woods they grow a good pace, and yield Timber, Poles, and store of good Fuel.

The Yew-tree may be propagated in any barren Ground, even on the blackest Hills or Mountains, it being hot by nature, producing a curious red Berry, luscious, and sweet as Honey, though the Stone, or Seed, of it be very bitter; and these Berries put into the Ground, will grow, and being set regular, about eight or ten Foot distance, produce, in a little time, a very curious Grove, green all the Year; the Wood of it is very sappy and tough, bearing a good price, for of it are made our best *English* Bows, exceeding those of all other Nations; these Trees, as other, may be planted of Suckers.

The Fir and Pine, being naturally hot, delight in cold Grounds, high and rocky Hills and Mountains; they will be raised by the Kernel taken out of the Clogs, or Pine-apples, soaked in Water, and then exposed to a gentle warmth; these you may sow in a Nursery, or where you intend they shall grow up to a Grove, or Wood, especially the Pine, which will hardly bear a remove, unless very young, though the Fir may be very easily removed, and propagated on Slips, and will grow small and straight, to a prodigious height, if it take good root, even to sixty Foot high in twenty Years growth, though in the six Years they seem not to grow very fast, but afterward shoot up exceedingly.

C H A P. LII.

Of Trees delighting in wet Ground, as the Poplar, Aspen-tree, Alder, Willow, &c. their Ordering, and the best way to Improve them.

THus, Reader, having declared what is necessary for the improvement of dry barren Lands, by planting the most useful Trees for Timber and other services. I think it fit, in the same manner, to instruct you to improve wet, boggy, and otherways useless Lands, by planting of Trees to yield great store of advantage by Fuel, &c.

The Poplar, a Tree well known, grows exceeding well in moist Grounds, near the brinks of Rivers, but not in the Water, as the Willow; this Tree is propagated by freight Branches, or Pitchers, set in the Ground; but beware you cut not off the tops till they are of two or three Years growth, and head them at eight or ten Foot high, and in a few Years their Branches will spread exceedingly. The Timber is white, and of singular use for Turners work, and to make Tools for the Husband-man; and besides its pleasant shade it yields abundance of Fuel.

The Aspen-tree delights in moist, wet Ground, though it will grow in Woods and Copices; it differs not much from the Poplar, and is propagated by young Suckers, whose tops you must not cut off the first Year.

The Alder may, with success, be set in wet Lands, and much improves it; of these you may set Truncheons, and they will grow very fast, they will also grow of Seeds, but the best are young Sets with roots, being set as big as the small of a Man's Leg, and in length about two Foot; cut not the smaller Sets till they have stood three Years, and so they will produce great store of Wood for Poles and other uses.

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The Withe is a good improver of boggy Land, as also the Osier, which turns to a very great advantage, being worth 9 or 10 l. an Acre, where the Land before was of little or no value; if they can be carried easily by Land or Water, to the places where they make Baskets, Chairs, Scuttles, and the like Ware; they may be cut every two or three Years.

The common Willow affords much Fuel, Poles, and Binding-rods; this will grow either by Roots, Slips, Truncheons, or the like; plant them in February, if the Weather be open, and so till they Bud.

These watry Trees are of a clean white Wood, and very great improvers, increasing exceeding fast, and the better, when they are once grown up, for being lopped, and are a good shade for Cattle in Summer, and afford them good brouzing.

C H A P. LIII.

Further Improvements for Ordering sundry sorts of Trees for the valuable Improvement of Land, &c.

THere remain yet other things not treated of in relation to the improvement of Land by Trees, viz.

As for such Trees as cast their Leaves in the Fall, the best time to transplant them, to other convenient places, for Timber, Under-wood, Shade, or Ornament, you may do it, the Weather being open, in October, November, and, upon necessity, till they begin to bud, in the Spring; and those Trees that do not shed their Leaves, but are green throughout the Year, are best removed in the Spring, when the cold is abated and the Sun opens the pores of the Earth, that the Roots may spread, and the Sap be continued by fresh moisture; and it may be well done in August.

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The pithy Trees, as the Ash, Lime-trees, Sycamore, Aspen, &c. need no cutting, upon transplanting, till they have well taken root one Year; and then, to hasten their growth in bigness, you may cut the tops of the uppermost branches that too luxuriously expend the moisture that should feed the bole and under-branches. As for Fir, or any Rosiny-tree, cut not the roots, nor the branches, but a very little, because they will be apt to spread their Resin, or Turpentine, too much, to the decay of the Plant, for that is it which keeps it alive and makes it prosper.

This method may be used to transplant Suckers, Scions, Slips, or Layers, of Birch, Elm, Chesnut, Oak, Beech, &c. But where they have not good root, it must be done in the Spring, when the Sap is risen, and they begin to put out their buds. All Trees delighting in wet, or watery Ground, may well be transplanted in *February*, or *March*, before they are too forward, if the Frost be well out of the Ground.

Remove Trees rather into a better than a worse Ground wherein they naturally grew, or, at least, so much good Earth in the holes you make to set them in, as may first give them a fixed rooting, and so they may get a head, and when they are once acquainted with the nature of the Land they will thrive again; let as much of the Earth in which they first grew, as may be, adhere to the root when you remove them, that so they may be the better nourished, and grow more kindly, and let the spurs of the roots be, as many as may be, pretty long and large, except the top and downright roots, that so they may spread every way; and, that they may the better do it, make the holes you set them in large, and fill in the Mold loose upon them.

If you would have your Trees prosper well, remove them not out of a warm shelter into a bleak, cold Air; and, to keep them steady and upright, that they may not decline, nor much loosen by the blowing of Winds, keep the Earth pretty high about them above the level of the Ground.

The

The Oak, Pine, Walnut, and other Trees, that bear spreading branches, at the transplanting, set at a good distance from each other, at least forty Foot; but the Beech, Ash, Yew, Fir, and Chesnut, may stand much nearer, viz. at a third of the distance. The Hornbeam and Elm, will grow the nearest of any Trees together, and these you may plant in a regular, or a promiscuous order.

As for the watering of Trees in dry Seasons, care must be had of it whilst they are young, especially as soon as they are transplanted, for this settles the Earth about them, and makes the Roots take firmer hold, and if they have been far fetched, set the Roots in Water some time before you plant them, and if you find the Wind much shakes them, set strong Stakes by them, and fasten the Trees to those Stakes with wisps of Hay, that they may the better be strengthened, and so order it, by putting Moss, or Hay, between the Plants, that the rubbing may not fret, or gaul them; you may lay about the Roots of them, Fern, Stubble, Hawme, or any other such like things, that, in the first place, it may keep them warm, and, in rooting, dung them: Stones laid about the Roots of Trees, keep them moist in Summer, and warm in Winter: Coppices may be planted about Autumn with young Sets, or Plants, the best way in rows, at ten or fifteen Foot distance, for then you may very well reap the benefit of Intervals, by ploughing, digging, and sowing, and have a great deal the better conveniency for the grazing of Cattle, and proper ways for Wains, or Carts, to fetch away the Timber, or pass from one Ground to another; besides, it will yield you pleasant shady Walks; and then, if you would thicken your Coppice, when well grown, bend some of the Boughs that are nearest to the Ground, give them little nicks on the back of the bending, and put them a little way so bowed into the Earth, covering them with Mold, and keeping them from rising with hooked Stakes driven into the Ground, and, springing up, they will produce a great many Suckers, and, in time grow up into Trees, or, at least, considerable Under-woods.

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C H A P.

C H A P. LIV.

How to Order Trees for their better growing and more speedily turning to good Advantage.

TO preserve Trees in good plight, and to make them grow apace, there are other things required, than what I have hitherto mentioned.

First, Prune them, when they are somewhat well grown, taking off with your Pruning-hook, the smallest, and most superfluous Boughs and Branches, doing it upward, about *January*, that what of the Snag remains to the Tree may not split; and the best way is to cut them off as close to the Body of the Tree as may be, lest the Stump rot, and Water get into the hollow part to spoil and doat the Timber.

Secondly, When you perceive your Plants will not grow up to tall Timber, shroud them, or lop them, and they will grow up to be very good Pollards: This must be done above the height of the reach of Cattle, smooth, and aslope, taking off the top and main Branches; this may be done in the beginning of the Spring, or the end of the Fall, and so, when they are grown up, you may lop them every four or five Year for good Fuel; besides, these may stand in Hedge-rows, or vacant places, fit for no other use, and, after they have afforded you great store of it, the Bodies, if they hold sound, make a good sort of short Timber, very fit for Planks, and other uses. As for Winter-greens, as Pines, or any other resinous Tree, they must be cut in Winter, after the great Frosts, and coldest Winds are over; but in no wise be beheaded, nor the colateral Branch much cut off.

Thirdly, All Trees delighting in wet, or moist Ground, may be shrouded, or lopped, in the beginning of *March*, the Weather being open, but not too near the Body, lest it endanger the Tree, and hinder its sprouting.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, Coppices may be felled, or cut, from *September*, to mid-*March*, leaving such standards, as you intend for Timber, at an equal distance, chusing out the straightest, and most likely thriving, for that purpose; cut not above half a Foot from the Ground, and that sloap-wise, that the young Sprigs may the better shoot out, and grow, and furnish you with a second Felling.

Fifthly, When your Timber-trees are arrived at their best state, or you have occasion to fell them for advantage, fell the Oak from *April* till Mid-summer, for then the Sap is proud, and the Bark, which is a very good Commodity, will easily be got off: But for other Timber, the best Season is in Winter, when the Sap is low; for if it be much in those Trees, it breeds Worms, and much defaces the beauty of it: and the properest Months, are *December*, and *January*; when you fell large Timber, cut off all the large Arms first, lest they endanger the Tree, rising, or breaking in the fall.

C H A P. LV.

Sundry Trees not yet mentioned, their Growth and Well-ordering, for the Improvement of Land.

Cypress Trees will grow tolerable well in *England*; and is not only pleasant for the cool refreshing shade it casts, but in indifferent mixed Sandy, and Clay-ground, it will grow to a considerable stature and thickness; but then they must not be set in over moist, or wet, places; and though they are most used to shade Walks, Avenues, cover Arbours, and adorn the centers of green Plats; yet, where they come to any thing of Timber, the Wood is exceeding good, hard, and durable, of a good Scent, preserving Cloaths from Moths and Worms, and lasts a long time without corrupting, or rotting: *Pliny* affirms he saw Gates of this Wood four hundred Years old, and yet, neither Worm-eaten, nor perished.

The Pine-tree is somewhat of the nature of the Fir, of a rosinny Sap, and a very hot Tree, therefore it thrives best in cold places, where the heat of the Sun cannot make it sweat too much, to spend and destroy itself, though it delights much in Hills and Mountains, where the Air is more free and cooler always than in the Valleys, yet will it thrive well enough in Woods, especially if they be upon a little rising ascent, that the wet passes away, and a mixture of Earth, of Gravel, Sand, and Clay; and, as the former, may be improved by Slips, or Scions, so this may also, and by the Kernel sown which comes out of the wooden huffs of the Apples it bears: And were this Tree better regarded and improved in *England*, it might turn to as great an advantage here as in other Nations; and even our Hills might be covered with these, and Fir-trees; so, that in a few Generations, we need not be at the expence of buying and fetching home Timber of this kind, but have plenty of our own, to the great improvement of Land, that now is of little or no value.

There are some other Trees natural to other Countries, that might be propagated in *England*, and turn to the advantage of the industrious Husband-man; as the Larach-tree, a lasting sound Wood; as, also, the wild Olive, Almond, Date, Cedar, which, by good management, are conceived to grow well in this Country, and may be brought to a great improvement, though not to that perfection their native Soil gives them, yet so far as may be an advantage, very highly, to those that are at the trouble of planting and rearing them; for, when they are once well entred, they will produce numbers, and grow themselves without any further trouble, unless sometimes pruning and watering in a dry and parching Season, till their spreading tops are sufficient to shade their Roots, and prevent the Sun-beams from sucking up too much moisture from them, and may, as other Trees, be transplanted as occasion requires.

C H A P.

C H A P. LVI.

Of Trees fitting for Timber and other Uses; the sundry sorts; their goodness, and to what uses properly to be attributed; very necessary to be known, &c.

I Shall now, from what has already been laid down, proceed to the usefulness of the Timber and Wood produced by Trees, that have not as yet been amply touch'd on.

Cedar and Cypress are excellent in Building, for their lastingness; as not, in a great number of Years, being subject to corrupt.

The Fir, Poplar, Ash, and Elm, are exceeding good for the inward parts of Building; as for main Timber, Joists, Rafter, Floors, &c. but hold not so well where they are sometimes wet, and at other times dry, as the Oak does.

For the conveyance of Water, the Alder, Pine, Pitch-tree, and Elm, make curious and lasting Pipes; but then they must be covered with Earth, for above Ground they will not well hold, especially in hot Weather, by reason of their rining; especially all but the last, which will do tolerably well.

The Oak, Beech, and Walnut-tree, endure very well in the Water. The wild-Olive, Mast-helm, and wild-Oak, are of long endurance.

For Rafter and Mortice-pieces, the Elm and Ash are very properly adapted, because of their length: The best to bear weight is the Fir, and the Larash; which, howsoever you lay them, will neither bend, nor fail your expectation till Worms consume them. On the contrary,

The Olive and the Oak will give and bend, and so will the Poplar: The Willow, Birch, Elm, and Date, usually

bend against the burthen they bear; the Poplar, on the other side, giveth upon every light weight; the Elm, and the Ash, though slow, are easily bent.

These are easily wound and bent, viz. The Willow and Birch, and the smaler Oak; Shingles to cover Houses are best made of Oak, Beech, and the Wood of such other Trees as bear Mast; also of such as yield Rosin, as the Pine, and the Pitch-tree.

For Tables, Stands, Bowls, and such other household Utenfils, the Maple, Ash, and Walnut, are very curious, graceful *English Woods*, and much lasting.

Box is a Wood well known, of great value for its firmness and durableness, and usually sold, for its preciousness, by weight; and serves for Combs, Hafts of Knives, Mathematical Instruments, and so many Mechanical uses, that little, except the very tender Sprays, can be counted waste in it; so that an Acre of good growth of this is held to exceed, by much, the value of twenty Acres of the best Corn; and therefore, considering when once it is well got in the Ground, that every twenty Years it may be well cut, and the Roots left will produce new Shoots to supply the place of what was taken away, what great advantage may be made by it, in improving Land where little else will grow, and that it requires no yearly toiling, ploughing, and sowing, nor the charge of Seed.

Holly is another excellent Wood, useful for Whipstocks, Cops of Carrs, and Sidings; as also for any thing that requires a strong, tough, lasting Wood; but, above all, its Bark has of late been found famous for the making of Birdlime; the which, because it may be grateful to the Country-men, not only in taking and destroying such Birds as annoy his Corn, but to furnish his Table, though it is somewhat a digression from the Subject, I shall, however, by the way, give him a Receipt to make, and use it, and then come again to a conclusion of what I intend to lay down, in relation to the Ordering of Trees, and Improvement of Wood-lands, for his advantage.

C H A P. LVII.

A true Receipt how to make the best Bird-Lime.

When the Sap is full in the Bark of the Holly, about Midsummer, take that which is well grown, and strip off a considerable quantity of the Bark, and boil it in fair Water, till the gray and white Bark part from the green; so separate the green, and lay it on a heap on a Tyled, or Stone Floor, in a Cellar, or some such cool place, covered with Weeds, for the space of ten or twelve days: in which time it will putrifie, turning into a slimy quality; then put it into a Mortar, and beat it with a wooden Pestle, till nothing but slime remain; so that no part of the Bark being to be discerned, it may be wrought like Wax; then wash it in a running Stream, that no moat or husk may remain in it; after this is done, knead it into a glazed earthen Vessel, cover it close from the Air, and there it will fume up, and purge out, its scurf and dross; and, after six days, scum it off; and continue so doing till no more arise, then, that you may keep it for use, shift it into another clean Vessel.

When you use this on Twigs, Straws, or Bushes, according to the quality of the Fowl you design to take, warm it, and mix it with a little Hogs, or Goose-grease, over a gentle Fire, till they are well incorporated, by frequent stirring; then anoint the Twigs, Straws, or Bushes, with it, as even as you can, without leaving any knobs, or roughness; and place them either in Woods, or Fields, where the Birds you intend to take resort; and place what Allurements you think fit, in Meats, or other Matter, as will be most taking to them, and place them so, that when they descend, they must needs touch them, and such as do will certainly be entangled; for if they rise with them on their Feet, they will certainly lap their

Wings, and that will cause them suddenly to fall: and, as the greater or lessness of the Fowl is, so must you proportion your Twigs.

C H A P. LVIII.

Wonderful Improvement of Land, by planting Trees, and by Inclosures; shewing the advantage of it over those Lands that lye in Common.

WOOD may be greatly improved, by inclosing Ground with it, for Corn and Pasture; yielding a great many advantages to the painful Husband-man, whose good Industry well deserves a good Recompence.

First, For that well-grown Trees, and good Hedges, shelters his tender Corn, &c. from bleak Winds; and keeps off the blastings that would much annoy it, even when grown.

Secondly, It is a great advantage to Pasture-lands, in sheltering Cattle, both in the heat of Summer, and in the extremum of Winter; as also from violent storms of Rain, Hail, or Snow, &c.

Thirdly, It secures Corn from High-roads being made into it by idle Persons and Cattle; which, if it lay in common, or open, could not be avoided, since those, that know not the toil and cost the Husbandman is at, to bring his Crop to a Harvest, little regard what havock they make, through laziness, for wanton disportment, or the nearest way; which, if there were a Barrier of good Fence, they could not do: and then for Cattle, it saves the trouble of Pounding, and many frivolous Suits, that frequently arise on trespasses of these kinds; and therefore is advantageous both to the owner of the one and the other,

Fourthly,

Fourthly, Trees growing up, their Lops afford much Fuel and Fencing, perpetually supplying the owner with both, as occasion requires; and indeed few know the scarcity of the first, so well as those that live distant from Inclosures, in open champion Countries, where Coals cannot at all, or at least, without great charge and labour, be had; not only the pinching Winters afflict these, but even their necessary occasions, of Brewing, Baking, and Dressing their Provision, make them sensible, to their great cost and loss of time, that the planting of Trees is extremely beneficial, for that, being at hand, they may keep it in a readiness, by getting it in, and laying it up to dry, at leisure times, to their great comfort and advantages; and be profited in selling the overplus, to the rich, and charitably bestowing some on their poor Neighbours; and, for their Christian Compassion towards them, be loaded with their Blessings and Prayers: and of this, one Mr. Tupper, one very much experienced in Rural Affairs, in his old fashioned Rhime thus speaks:

*The Wood-land above all I praise,
the Champion delighteth not me;
For nothing of Wealth it doth raise,
to such as laborious be:
In Wood-lands the poor Man that have,
scarce fully ten Acres in Land,
More merrily live, and do save,
than th'other with forty in Land.
The one hath, in every Hedge,
both plenty of Fuel and Fruit;
The other lays Turf up and Sedge,
and gets it by wonderous suit;
And ready in Winter to starve,
when th'other you see doth not so,
But has what is needful to serve,
when th'other all ragged does go.*

There

There is, indeed, a great difference in the advantage arising between Inclosures, or Wood-lands, and such as lye open; and though some may be apt to grudge at the inclosing of Commons, yet, were there a good measure taken therein, it would greatly turn to the advantage of the poor, and much improve the riches of the Nation; there being so much good Land, lying as it were waste, might be inclosed and let to the benefit of the poor; to the great easing of the Parishes, and advantaging those that claim a right therein, three or four times more than what now it can; for the poor having little stock to put there, the rich make their advantage, who have much; which, if it was inclosed, and let out for the general benefit, they could not do; and so thereby the stock of Corn would be greatly advanced; and, in some Years, a good improvement of Timber might be made, many Commons and Moors, that now lye in a manner waste, and are of little profit, being capable, with a little industry, of producing equal with Lands of a good value; so that things thus rightly stated, every one concern'd might have a right understanding, and be highly satisfied in so good a Work.

Consider, in this case, where the Grounds are inclosed, how happily people live; as in *Hartford-shire, Essex, Kent, Berk-shire, Surry, Wilt-shire, Somerset-shire, Hamp-shire*, and others; all which not only raise Corn for themselves, but supply other open Countries, and even the great City of *London*, which consumes a vast quantity thereof; and yet no parts of *England* set a greater rate, or make a greater advantage by Grazing.

Therefore I must say, that all Interests upon Commons, or Rights of Common-pasture upon any of these Lands, may, without prejudice to any particular Interest, be advantaged, and much improvement made to the Publick, considering what vast quantities of Land lye, as I may term it, waste; some over-run with Mole-hills, Ant-hills, Goss, Fern, Bryers, Twitch-grass, and the like; others under Water, for the want of opening the Currents, and Passages for Brooks, or Water, descending from Hills; for, whilst it lyes thus, every one concludes it not

his

his business, and so it lyes neglected; and many, however, claim their parts in it, that will bestow neither cost nor labour in making it fit for good Pasture, or Corn-land; though, if it was so ordered, it might prove in a little time, the enriching of them, and be a means to disburden the Parish, by the Rents arising therefrom, of the chargeable Poor, and be a means to employ labouring Men; so that every one would live at ease from encumbrances, or suffering wants.

But this, some may say, cannot be done without great encouragement of our Superiors, or, at least, the general consent of all that have any right or claim in the many parts of such Land by long custom. Suppose this granted, as for the first, Those that are called together, to consult the good and welfare of all the People of *England*, cannot be thought to be averse to so great an advantage to the Publick, where Particulars are rightly represented and stated; since the Poor, reaping the Benefit, they being by far the vaster number, it would be a great easement to the Nation, in employing many, and charitably supporting others: And, for the latter, I presume, there are few, that would not be induced to study their own good and advantage.

C H A P. LIX.

Of Inclosures, and Trees planted in Hedge-rows, both Fruit, and others; and the benefit arising thereby to the Owners of such Land, &c.

THere might be abundance of things said in the encouragement of Inclosures and Woodland, beneficial to private Persons, and the general good of the Nation, since so great a consumption of Timber, and Underwood has of late been made, in building of Shipping, Houses, in Iron-works, and Charcoal; which, if not in time repaired, will make this, or at least the next Generation too sensible of the decay of it; and the want of these Necessaries, will much obstruct the Trade of the Nation, as well as put private Persons to great straits.

The Earths proper in this case, may be chosen indifferently; but for Wood-land, chuse a warm, sandy, gravelly Ground, mixed with other Earth to temper them, especially with a moist, strong, cold Clay.

I have given divers Rules already for the meliorating Earths when they decay, or languish, by sundry Manures, and therefore shall not be troublesome to my Reader, in repeating what is already done; but where Inclosures are designed for Corn, by the way, that it is proper you make choice of a good, sound, middle, warm Land, than of the richest, and fattest that is, and it will produce a great encrease, and the Timber about it will pretty well thrive, and grow up in time to great spreading Trees, though not over high, so that the Boughs will be very thick and substantial, and the great Arms serve for divers necessary uses, as occasion shall require them in Building, or other Matters; and the Spray-lops provide a sufficiency of Fuel to screen you from the cold: In the Hedge-rows you may likewise, to advantage yourself more, plant

Fruit-

Fruit-trees, which being well grown, will, with a little care, bear better than those planted in Orchards, as lying more open to the Sun, and altogether unincumbered by others; so that by the Fruit great profit will accrue, and the due pruning them will add to your stock of Fuel; besides, it will give a very pleasant prospect to the Ground, affording cool and delightful Umbrays in the Summer-season.

And this appears by Land already improved in this nature, in *Hertford-shire, Worcester-shire, Gloucester-shire*, and other Countries; redounding to the great benefit of the Owners, who have, by this means, a double Crop yearly, one of Fruit, and the other of Corn, and a third may, in some cases, be brought to perfection; viz. of Turneps, or such like, that may be sown, ripe, and drawed, before the Season for sowing Barly comes on; by which means Land may be improved to a great value, or if laid down for Meadow, or Grazing, nothing can be more accommodating to Cattle, than a Pasture fringed with substantial Trees, spreading their Branches, as I have hinted, to screen, by sheltering from Rain, Winds, Heat, or Cold.

This I speak to encourage Industry, and this Industry consequently encreases Wealth, which always commands a plenty of what is necessary; and, being once gained, takes off much of the toil and labour Poverty imposes on the needy; so that the Labour of youthful Years, may comfortably supply old Age; to do which, experience teaches us, it is very necessary.

It is allowed by the most judicious, that shadiness in Summer, and warmth in Winter, occasion'd by Trees, much helps and betters the Land; for in such Fields we find the earliest Grass, and frequently the greatest Swath and Burthen, and consequently more Corn than in open places, exposed to bleak Winds in Winter and Spring, and the Sun's hot Beams continually lying on, and parching them in Summer, from Morning till Evening-tide: Hills indeed, may reasonably keep off some Winds, and make them fly over the Champion-ground; but I cannot conceive we have any that cast so large a Shade, especially

ly in Summer, when the Sun, as it were, in a manner, runs burning over our Heads, that give any tollerable shelter from its Beams at Morning or Evening, which Trees, growing near about the Ground, will infallibly do, and in some parts, or places, all the day long to good advantage.

This Ground will feed more Cattle, and sooner fatten them, than that which lyes open and exposed to the Weather; and certainly, where Trees are formerly planted, and grow not too thick, none can see reason to the contrary of what is said: As for Land, I know very much, if not most of it, that was worth not above ten Shillings an Acre, some less, now the Grass of most of it thus enclosed, and planted, is three times advanced, or more, the Fruit growing in the Hedge-rows, and Avenues, overpaying the Rent, and the Crop entire to the Owner.

But say the Land were worth twenty Shillings an Acre, or more, this will cause the Trees better to prosper, and produce a greater Crop, and the less cost in manuring or ploughing may be bestowed on it.

If you set rows of Trees, either Fruit or others, in the middle of your Fields, at such distance as not to hinder the Sun from bringing forth the Grass, or ripening the Corn, it will yet turn to a greater advantage, as four, or six fold, and make the Husband-man, in a little time, rejoice in his labour, and so much Land now of little worth may be very much improved; and if so it happen, that one Crop fails in a Year, it is not morally possible that both should; and so one hitting, will, however, make you favers, and rather more, by a great deal, if it happen any thing to the purpose.

These things may be done without much toil, or cost, and prove in a manner a recreation to the industrious Farmer, or his Servants, at leisure hours; and Plants and Grafts may be had out of his own Nurseries, or Orchard, where the thick, growing together, encumber one another; and, for other Trees, every Wood, or over-cumbered Hedge-row, afford a sufficient store, for if a Man at first be unprovided, at little cost he may be furnished; and then, having of his own, he may improve and multiply

ply a few to greater numbers, till his encrease is sufficient to supply himself, and others, to a very considerable degree. So that all things being well considered, those that are desirous to do well for themselves, or for their Posterity, will hearken to what I have laid down, that so Wealth and Plenty may encrease to them, and, by so doing, they may incite others to imitate them.

CHAP. LX.

Reasons for Inclosures and Wooding of Land, both for the private and publick advantage; and the Objections made against them answered and confuted in many convincing Particulars.

Here, to draw near a conclusion of the Subject-matter of this Book, I come to answer a main Objection against Inclosures, and shew the advantage of them; but, the more smoothly to come to it, I affirm, that very many Wastes, Forrests, Moors, and Common-fields, as they are now enjoyed, through the oppression of the Rich, and sloth and idleness of the Poor, and misusage of all, are of little advantage to the Publick, being Commonable at random; nay, whether they are not worse than nothing, some Years yielding a little profit and encrease, which in other Years is clearly swept away, old Stock and all.

I know, upon some Common-fields, the Poor are forced to more charges in keeping their Cows, Horses, or Sheep, than would keep them in good Pasture, without any care or trouble, it being the daily business of one Person to tend two or three Cows, &c. for fear of breaking into other Mens Grounds, and so occasioning litigious Suits by trespasses, whilst the party tending them, might, at indifferent Labour, earn more than the grasing in good Pasture would amount to, and prevent all fears and dangers, by being en-

enclosed within good Fences, not only of their straying, but of troublesome borderers on Commons, &c.

Now the Objections is; If this were not, how should so many poor Men, Women, and Children, be employed; now one Town maintains many great Families, and many Families live upon the Common, which then must shift, and go a begging?

Now, that I may manage this Objection to the purpose, the great *Romera* to this Improvement (all other Objections seeming to me, in comparison to this, as nothing) most Men herein being much beclouded, and very many wise Men so charitably bewitched herewith, I must therefore demand,

First, How these People live? Why, truly, in a very mean, low condition; at hunger and ease, for the most part; and for the best of them, they live an uncomfortable, moiling, and drudging kind of Life; what they get, they spend; Plough, Sow, and Reap, and all to bring the Reap about, and well if they can make even at the Year's end; and this kind of miserable living they seem to be contented with, because they cannot better themselves.

Secondly, As aforesaid, many of these People are employed; but to loss, and very great loss too, when their Pains and Charges is far greater, in keeping their Cattle and Herds by Corn-fields, in the High-ways and Lanes, than that they might have them pastured for.

Thirdly, What are the People fitted for hereby? Why Idleness, and an aversion to Industry; and as it were render themselves useless to the Publick, living altogether in ignorance, having little regard of their Souls or Body.

Fourthly, Now Inclosures will bring far more advantage, if some, by divisions, would lay the Land both warm and dry; others by quick-setting and planting Woods of many sorts, Fruit-trees for Perry, and Sider, or Garden-roots; improving some Lands by watering, others by draining; and again by Corn, upon perfect and compleat Tilth and Soiling, which none will wave, it always bringing great profit, which may be done by those Hands, that are to little or no purpose employed on Commons: other Lands might

might be improved, as I have already directed, by Flax, Hemp, Clover, or the like, and all other means held forth in this Discourse, whereby they may be really serviceable to their Generation.

And this I affirm, That many more People may be employed this way than now are, and to double advantage, and none but the oppressor can be grieved at it, or any way prejudiced; and for such a one, it matters not.

Fifthly, Take a survey of all Inclosures, and take in whole Countries, and you will find more Wealth, more People, and every thing more plenty.

Lastly, For those who meerly live upon the Commons, if they have a proportion allowed them to themselves, as all honest People desire they should, I am confident it would wean a great many from their idleness, and pilfering way of living, to do what work is necessary; out of which will arise Inclosures, and the profits accruing thereby will give them such an opportunity of full employment, that they will have a just cause to rejoyce at the happy change of their condition so much bettered.

Now I grant, as it is but reasonable I should, that all Common cannot be aptly inclosed without prejudice to the Poor, who must be removed on that account, unless better provision in the mean while can be made for them, and the few Cattle they have; which is to be considered but in a very few places, and may well be stinted, or limited, to a set number of Cattle, and such a number too as the Land will maintain to the best advantage; this might in some few cases help, but in the generality little avail; because feeding barely to keep Cattle alive, is no great matter of advantage; but such feeding where they may increase, thrive, and grow fat, is that which can best profit the Owners, and also the Publick; and this cannot be where Ground, that is but poor of itself, is over-stocked; for then, by penury and want, Diseases get among Cattle, as Murrains, Rots, and abundance of others, which in a sound well-manured, and plentiful Pasture are strangers; so that, by such Casualties, a poor Man may at once lose all he has to depend on, and so be brought to want and beggary never, by his Labour, in his life-time perhaps, being able

able to recover the loss of one fatal Year. And so, hoping none, from the highest to the lowest, will have cause to cavel at these things, especially if time be taken rightly to digest and consider the Propositions as they ought, I conclude these Points, and proceed to other Matter that may be advantageous to the industrious Farmer, and others, who take any pleasure to delight, or advance their own Interest in Rural Affairs; for, intending to make the Book a sufficient Guide to all, I purpose to omit nothing, that may in any tolerable manner be conceived reasonable to profit any, it being a Work indeed that was never before compacted to any purpose, in one Body, and therefore being now reduced to so small a Volume, it cannot but prove grateful to those more particularly whose curiosity, or industry leads them any thing this way, and may be a main Instrument to stir up Publick Spirits, to consider the Publick Good and Welfare of the Nation, in improving their Furses and Skill in promoting what consequently will abundantly produce Riches and Plenty.

Reader, I shall here a little further trespass upon you, to let you know how to take or destroy other Creatures than what I have mentioned, that are great Enemies to Corn and Under-woods, Clear-ways, &c. which may turn to your profit and pleasure, in the proper Seasons, after your Toil and Labour.

CHAP. LXI.

How to take the Stag, Buck, Hare, Fox, Badger, Wild-Goat, and Otter, which destroy Corn, Underwoods, &c.

THE Stag is the most Princely of all Games; and when you go about this, to know whether he be old or young, observe the Prints of his Feet where he has trod the soft Ground; and, if it be large, with a thick heel, open Cleft, long Space, and a deep Print, he is mainly old; but, if the contrary, you may venture upon him for a young one.

And the principallest Quality being to know at all Seasons where to find this Game, observe this Rule, viz. In November, seek among the Whines, thick Shrubs, or Urfs; in December, in thick Woods; in January, he is easiest to be found in the Corn-fields; in February and March, among the thick young Bushes; in April or May, in Coppices, or near Springs; in June and July, in Outwoods, and the Purlews on the Edges of Corn-fields; in September and October, after the first Falling-showers, he is to rut.

When you are in search of him, go against the Wind, that he may not scent you, and hastily remove. Sun-rise is the best time to find him, when, having watched him in his Lare, you may assuredly find him there till the Evening, unless roused by some Affrightment.

As for the manner of hunting him: When you approach somewhat near, send out your Finders; and when they have hunted about a Ring or two, cast in the rest of your Hounds, and cheer them with your Horn and Voice, when they are at Full Cry on the Main Chase; and take special notice of the Stag, that you may know him, if your Dogs should follow a wrong Game, that you may call them off, and set them back to their Default, making them

CHAP.

them cast about again till the first Game is again undertaken, and then cheer them as before; and have a watchful Eye he beat not up another Stag; for the Stag hunted, being imbossed and wearied, will, if he can, beat up another, and, lying down, skulk closely in his place.

You may perceive when he is weary, by his flavering and frothing of his Mouth, much Sweat, shining and blackness of his Hair, and often lying down; and for his last Refuge, he will betake himself to Ponds, Brooks, Rivers, or any Stream, out of which he must be forced by Strength or Policy; and so you having the Game you sought for, are at the end of hunting him.

Of the Buck and Hare; the manner of finding them, &c.

AS to the Buck, your business is to take your Measures according to the Advantages or Disadvantages of the place where the Buck is imparked, or in Chaces; and this is more easie to be taken than the former: And if you can hunt the Stag well, by the same Rules, with less Trouble, this may be run down.

But what is most the honest Countryman's Sport, is the Hare; and therefore I shall be large in my Directions upon her, as to the finding and running her down.

If you seek her in Champion Countries, you must beat the most likely Bushes and Covertures; as, Brambles, Brown Grass or Brakes: And if there be no such Shelter in the beginning of Hunting-time, repair to the Stubble and to the Fallows about *Christmas*; but in *March*, to the Green Corn, which are her most likely Haunts; especially of the largest and best Hares.

There is another Rule to be taken in finding the Hare, and that is, to repair to her former Seat, and observe whether it is new or old; if it be plain and smooth, and the Pad before it worn and flat, and the Pricks new, easily to be seen, and the Earth appear black, as if it were just broken, then it is new, and she is not gone so far from it, but you may expect her to return: But if the Marks appear

pear otherwise, then conclude she has left it for a considerable time; and if the Hounds have taken any Scent, and open, then call them off; for unless a Hare accidentally start, you will lose your Labour.

The Hare has Sights almost more than any Creature that is used to be hunted; for she will make many Doubtings and Windings to avoid the Pursuit, which you must well note and observe, or you may chance to lose her; therefore you must at every Default give your Hounds scope and sufficient Leisure in casting about their Rings at the Windings of them; and after this, observe her Leaps, and the Skips which she makes, before she quits; then with your Pole beat the places where she is most likely to shelter; for being reduced to these necessitous Shifts, she is at her last Cast, and has but a little time to hold out, nor can be long out of your Possession. And thus much for all that is material in Hunting the Hare, as far as Directions can be given in Print.

Of the Fox, Badger, and Wild-Goat.

THE taking the Fox, Badger, and Wild-Goat, are other Recreations in some places of this Kingdom highly in Esteem; and there is very good Sport to be had in it, though the Quarreys are of no Value, except their Skins.

As for the Fox, he is a subtle cunning Creature, not easily to be circumvented; his Resting-place is generally the Ground, or some hollow Tree, but mostly in the summer; and when once he's unkennel'd, stop up the hole, and cast in your Fox-dogs, who by reason of the strong or burning Scent he leaves behind him, cannot but follow him in the Track; keep him, if you can, from getting into the woods; mark his Mocks, Wiles, and Leaps, that so you may be the abler to deal with him, though he be a long one: He will lead you a weary Journey over Hills and Hills before you can run him down; and if he does this, you must send in your Tarrier after him, if the Hole

Hole be wide enough, or else dig him out. His Haunts are so uncertain when he is a roaming, that Directions cannot well be given about it; and you may sooner light on him by chance out of his Hole, than when you go purposely to look for him; and that will be by the Dogs happening to light on the Scent, which is very strong.

The Badger is a kind of Wild-dog, living in Ground like the Fox, but not so hurtful to Cattel and Poultry: His Haunts and Coverts are usually in Woods or bushy places. The Dogs must be hardy and bold that venture on him; for he is strong, and a very shrewd Biter; and, for the last Refuge, when almost run down, hastes to his Hole; but finding it stopped, as it must be, if you intend to take him, he will set himself against it, and fight very courageous, even to Death. He is a Heavy Creature, and by the Unevenness of his Legs, as some allow it, of no swift Flight, and therefore soon overtaken in the Pursuit.

As for hunting the Wild-Goat, it is much used in Wales on the Mountains, but a very dangerous Exercise to pursue among those scraggy Rocks. This is a Creature that is not in those steep places easily taken; for neither Dogs nor Men in some places can follow her, where she will run on the sides of the Rocks like a Cat; so that, hallowing and making a noise with Horns, they watch at her Bolting-places, or steep comings down, and so seize her with the Dogs; and if it be a young She-Goat, this hunting will render her as tender as Venison.

Of the Otter.

THis Otter is a Creature that lives as well by Water as Land, and is a great Devourer of Fish. Having set her from her Holes in the Banks, if you can keep her on the Land, she is presently taken; but upon any Fright, if possible, she will take the Water, especially being pursued; and if the Dogs be good, they will pursue her there, and dive after her, till she comes to vent, and then her best is past; for then, if the Water be not

too deep for Horses to enter, she may be easily struck with an Otter-spear, and taken.

As to the taking of other Creatures, that are great Enemies to the industrious Husbandman, Farmer, &c. in their Corn, Underwoods, Fish-ponds, Rivers, and other things, I, for Brevity's sake, refer you to my *Vermin-killer*, in my approved Book treating of *Domestick Cattle*, and many other profitable things.

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THE

T H E

Countryman's Almanack:

S H E W I N G

Many things necessary and profitable to be known in relation to Weather, &c. And what is proper to be done in Rural Affairs, in many Particulars, throughout the Twelve Months, &c.

Signs of Weather. And First, Of Rain.

THis is to be observed by the Face of the Heavens, and divers Creatures, viz.

When the Sun shews broad in rising, as through a Mist, and has a Circle about it.

When it sets in a black or dusky Cloud, and scatters pale and watery Beams.

When the Moon is pale, and blunt-horned, near the Change.

When a red Morning changes to grey, or marble-coloured Clouds, suddenly being overcast.

When the Wind often shifts and changes, and holds long in the South.

When the Stars are dull, and Circles seem to appear about them through the thickness or grossness of the Air, when little scattering Clouds appear at Northwest in the Evening.

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When the Crow flies low, casting his Head often upwards, and makes an unusual Noise; when Cattle often look upward, and snuff the Air sometimes, lowing heavily, and making towards Shelter.

When the Sea-Pies fly low, and dip, as it were, into the marshy Waters or Rivers, making a great Noise.

Signs of Fair Weather.

When the Sun rises bright, and Mists are on the Water, and the Rain-bow appearing after a Shower, shews very light in the Azure or bluish part.

When the Sun sets red, and casts direct Beams; and there are Webs flying in the Air, or contracted by the Vapours on the Grass.

When the New Moon is sharp pointed, and shines very clear; when the Clouds look clear, and are tinged about the Edges with a golden Colour, the Sun being screened behind them.

When Birds of Prey fly very high, and Cattle graze freely, without looking up, or seeming to be disturb'd.

When Owl cry clear in the Night, and have no kind of Stammering in the Noise they make.

If in Summer, observe the business of the Bees, and how far they fly from their Hives; for if they apprehend either Rain or Storm, they ever keep near about their Homes.

Signs of Windy Weather.

EXpect Winds to arise when Sea-fowl begin to flock to the Shoar.

When there is a rushing Noise heard in Woods, without any feeling of Wind; for that is a Sign the Vapour is rising out of the Earth, and the Air is already seized with it, that soon will create strong Winds, if not violent.

When a dusky Redness appears in the Moon and Sun, and Meteors by Night thwart the Skies, expect the Approach of great Winds.

When the Sea-Waves beat with a hollow Noise against the Rocks, and sounds as it were at a distance, and the swelling seems high and bright, then Winds are gathering.

When a Red Morning suddenly changes, and the Wind thereupon shifts its Quarter or Point, then expect the Wind will suddenly arise.

Signs of Frosty Weather.

IT signifies Frost, when the Sun sets red in the Winter, and the Air is clear or misty at a distance.

When the Stars shine bright, and twinkle much, seeming to send Darts and Rays to the Earth.

When the Moon in Winter is sharp-pointed, and a bright Circle, though very small, encompasses her.

When Meteors glide Northward, and the Wind often veering, settles in a cold Point; for then it will there continue long without Alteration.

When Stares, Feldsfares, and other Birds, used to cold Countries, flock towards the South.

When Cattle turn their Tails to the Northward, and stand as motionless for a considerable time, holding down their Heads, without regard to grazing.

Signs of Snowy Weather.

When in a Wind the Clouds move slow and heavily, and seem of a dusky white in the middle; and where any broken parts are fleecy and whiter at the Edges.

When there is a spreading of the Clouds of one Color grey and dull, and the Earth appears to be darkly shadowed.

Signs of Hail.

IT is a Sign of Hail when the Sky is suddenly overcast and there is a noise of rushing heard in the Air, caused by the Vapours of contrary quality being closed in the Clouds, which strive to break and shiver into Particles the ponderous Body of congealed Vapours pressing towards the Earth, which is its proper Center: And as the Cold is greater or lesser, so are the Hail-stones: And this mostly happens in the Spring and Summer, because the Vapour is more forcibly sent up; so that reaching the cold Region, it is frozen there; which in Winter, the Vapours being thinner or flagging, do not, and therefore are convertible into Drise or Snow.

The Measure of Time.

THE Measure of Time ariseth from Minutes, and of these 60 make an Hour, 24 Hours a Natural Day, 7 Days a Week, and 4 Weeks a Month, 12 such Months a Year and 6 Hours a Year; but this Year is usually divided into Twelve Calendar Months: However, their number of Days are many of them unequal, as in the following Verses:

*Thirty Days hath fruitful bearing September,
April, hot June, and cold November;
Short February Twenty Eight alone,
The other Months each claimeth Thirty One;
And February, when its fourth Year's run,
Does gain a Day then from the travelling Sun.*

So that by this Rule February every Leap-year has 29 Days, and that Year must consist of 366 Days, being a Day more than others.

The Year is again divided into 4 Quarters, viz. The Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, March 25.

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The Feast of St. John Baptist, usually called *Midsummer-day*, June 24. The Feast of *Michael the Archangel*, September 29. The Feast of the Nativity of our Blessed Saviour, usually called *Christmas*, December 25.

And now, by reason there are some Days that vary and move, falling higher or lower, according to the Change of the Moon, as *Shrove-Sunday*, *Easter-day*, *Ascension-day*, and *Whit-Sunday*, I shall give my Reader an Account how they fall out as to the exact Days of the Month, from this Year 1697. to the Year of our Lord 1703. and of the Movable Terms to the like Date of the Year.

Year.	Shrov.Sun.	Easter-day	Ascen.day	Whit-Sun.
1697	Febr. 14	April 4	May 13	May 23
98	March 6	April 2	June 2	June 12
99	Febr. 19	April 9	May 18	May 28
1700	Febr. 11	March 13	May 9	May 19
01	March 2	April 20	May 29	June 8
02	Febr. 13	April 5	May 14	May 24
03	Febr. 7	March 23	May 6	May 16

Year.	Easter Term		Trinity Term	
	Begins	Ends	Begins	Ends
1697	April 17	May 17	June 4	June 23
98	May 11	June 6	June 24	July 13
99	April 26	May 22	June 9	June 28
1700	April 17	May 13	May 31	June 19
01	May 7	June 2	June 20	July 9
02	April 22	May 18	June 5	June 24
03	April 14	May 10	May 28	June 16

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Observations of things produced by Natural Causes, as Blazing-stars, &c. and the Causes.

COMETS or Blazing-stars, so affrighting to the World in their Appearance, because they are frequently the Forerunners of dreadful Consequences, as War, Famine, Pestilence, &c. proceed from no other than Natural Causes; as, the ascending of unctuous Vapours gathering in a Body in the Superiour Region, and there by their near approach to the Region of Fire, and the Influence of the Stars, are agitated into a Flame, which, when the Sun-beams are excluded from it by the Shadow of the Earth, appears like a Star. These Comets or Blazing-stars are held to betoken Droughts, Barrenness of the Earth, and Pestilence.

Droughts, because a Comet cannot be generated without great Heat; and much Moisture is consumed in the burning of it.

Barrenness, because the Fertility of the Earth is drawn up where the Comet consisteth.

Pestilence, forasmuch as this kind of Exhalation corrupteth the Air, which infecteth the Bodies of Men and Beasts.

And indeed, it is generally noted by Historians, that after the appearing of Comets, great and notable Calamities befall Mankind; as indeed is not now out of the Memory of Man, as those that appeared in 1665. before the Great Plague, &c.

Of Stormy Winds.

A Stormy wind is a thick Exhalation violently moved out of a Cloud without Inflammation or Burning.

The Form and Manner of its Generation, is, when abundance of hot Exhalations are generated in a Cloud, which forcibly breaks out when it is swelled to its Bulk.

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It always goes before a violent sudden Shower; for when the Cloud is rent, as it were, in pieces, the Water must consequently fall down also; it is so gross and so thick, that it darkens the lowest Region of the Air, and brings with it a kind of a Night; and the Winds are usually fatal to Mariners, causing Shipwrecks, and many other Calamities.

Ignis Fatuus, or Foolish Fire.

THis is usually by the Country-People called *Will with a Whisp*: It is a Lucid Vapour arising from Moorish places, not capable of ascending but a little Degree above the Earth, as being shut in by the cold Autumnal Air; yet when the Air is stirred by any one's moving towards it, it presses forward and backward, and seems to dance about a Man; so that the Darkness of the Night, joined to Fear, has so amazed the Minds of many, that they have wandered out of their way into Ditches, Ponds, or Pools, or wandered till Day-light, which a composed Mind would with ease have prevented.

Of the Eclipses of the Sun and Moon, with their true Causes.

THE Sun, the chief Planet of Light, much greater than the Earth, or any other visible Body, making its Course through the 12 Signs of the Zodiack in 365 Days properly, and in 24 Hours encompasses the Earth; and by its kindly Heat is, under God, the Nourisher of Plants, Trees, Flowers; and indeed, all Created Beings on Earth partake of its Virtues: Yet this Illustrious Body is subject to be Eclipsed; for when the Moon is in Opposition to it, its dark Body shrouds the greater part of its Light from us for a time, till passing on in differing Tracts, they disengage; and then the Brightness of the Sun, if not hindered by Clouds, appears to us the more perspicuous.

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The Cause of the Moon's being Eclipsed, which happens always a little distant from the Full, is the Interposition of the Earth's Shadow between her and the Sun-beams; for, rising like a Pyramid, it reaches her opacous part; and she being a Body of herself without Light, can give no Reflection of the Sun-beams, till passing on, she recovers the refreshing of its Light: And though many from these Contingencies make strange Prognosticks, yet, proceeding from Natural Causes, I think they signify no great matter as to Transactions on the Globe of the Earth.

Of Whirlwinds.

A Whirlwind is a Wind bursting out of a Cloud, breaking or rowling roundabout, often overthrowing that which standeth in its way, by reason of its innate Violence, carrying things not exceeding ponderous aloft with it in the Air.

The Matter of a Whirlwind is not much differing from the Matter of Storm and Lightning, that is an Exhalation hot and dry, breaking out of a Cloud in divers parts of it, which occasions the blowing about; also, it causes the Air to imbody against its Violence, and so breaking through, it comes with the greater Force.

Of the Rainbow.

THE Ground or Reason of the Rainbow, is only the Sun's Reflection on a hollow Cloud, which, the Edge being repelled and beaten back against the Sun; from thence ariseth the so great Variety of Colours, by reason of the mixture of Clouds, Air, and Fiery Light together. Thunder and Lightning are caused, when hot and dry Vapours mixt with Moisture, are exhaled up into the middle Region, and there exhaled into the Body of a Cloud: These two Contraries not agreeing together, break forth with great Violence; so that the Fire and

H 5

Water

Water break forth of the Clouds, making a roaring Noise, which we call Thunder; and the Fire lighting, the Thunder is first made, but the Lightning first seen, in regard the Sight is quicker than the Hearing: Which to prove, observe at some distance, when a Man is cleaving of Blocks, or a Carpenter hewing a Log, and you shall see the Fall of the Beetle or Ax some little Distance of Time before you hear the Noise of the Blow. Now of Lightning there are many sorts; that which is dry burneth not at all, but dissipateth and disperseth itself: Likewise the moist burneth not, but blasts, and changeth the Colour: But the clear is of a strange Property; for it melteth the Sword, and singeth not the Scabbard; it draweth Vessels dry, without hurt to the Vessels. Some rich Misers have had their Silver melted in their Bags or Purses, and yet neither Bag nor Purse hurt; nay, not so much as the Wax that sealed the Bag stirred: It breaketh the Bones, and hurteth not the Flesh; and killeth the Child in the Mother's Womb, not hurting of the Mother. What great Cause have we then to pray, as it is in the Litany, *From Thunder and Lightning, good Lord deliver us?* Sundry things are not hurt by the Lightning; it entereth not above five Foot into the Earth, it hurteth not the Lawrel-tree: Such are freed as are shadowed with the Skins of Seals, or Sea-Calves. The Eagle likewise is Lightning free. *Pliny* saith, *Scythia*, by reason of Cold, and *Egypt*, by reason of Heat, are seldom molested with Lightning.

Of the Nature and Properties of the Seven Planets.

Saturn (the highest of the Seven) being well affected, is grave with Authority, studious of great Matters, a Lover of Secrets, full of Labour and Toil, covetous and studious for his own Benefit, unconstant in his Word, solitary and a Lover of Husbandry, a great Scraper together of Wealth, being ill affected; he is fearful, sad, envious, superstitious, deceitful, sloathful, thoughtful of base things, malignant, dull, and a great Liar. Jupiter (the only Signifier) being well affected, stirreth up Men to

Honestly,

Honestly, maketh them religious, just, heroick, faithful, and magnificent; famous Governours, grave and wise, studious in their Business, careful of their own, liberal upon discreet occasions, without Dissimulation, but being ill affected, unfortunate and weak; he is given to Pride and Prodigality. Mars, well affected, is valiant, strong, unfearful, desirous of Revenge, impatient of Wrong, generous, fit for Government, boasting, and not regarding Riches; being contrarily affected, he is unjust, cruel, a Tyrant, proud, rash, turbulent, a Blood-shedder, and an Author of all Dissentions and Discords. The most noble Planet is Sol, being well affected, signifieth Kings, Princes, Potentates; he is heroick, industrious, provident and ambitious, delighting in Wealth, valiant, secret, quiet, and honest: He giveth long Life, and a sprightly Body, a judicious Mind; he giveth Honours, Dignity, and Riches; and (which is most of all) he maketh Men famous and desirous of Honour. Venus, being fortunately affected, maketh one beautiful, pleasant, fair-spoken, delighting in gorgeous Apparel, eloquent, pitiful, apt for to please, sociable, excelling in Musick, impatient, reserved; but, being ill affected, she is libidinous, a Lover of Lovers, idle, jealous, sluggish, regardless of Fame, fearful, and prone to all Evil. Mercury, well seated, maketh one wise, studious, and apt to all Learning; cunning, subtle, and wary; skilful in Poetry, Geometry, and the Mathematicks; given to Law, desirous of Differences, and Eloquence in Disputation; but, being unfortunate, he is malicious, subtle, crafty, forsworn, and a desperate Liar. Luna, or the Moon, causeth one to be unstable, faint-hearted, fearful, a Vagabond, and prodigal; she delighteth in the Study of Romances, to walk from place to place, to travel far Countries, and to plant Herbs and Trees; she also signifieth Messengers, Sea-men, Ladies, Fishers, and all such as be in continual Motion.

The Unfortunate and Fatal Days in the Year.

THE ancient Astronomers have observed certain Days in every Month to be held fatal and unfortunate, in which they accounted it ominous to begin, or undertake any Affairs; which Days are these:

January 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 15, 17, 19.

February 8, 10, and 17.

March 15, 16, and 21.

April 16 and 21.

May 7, 11, and 20.

June 4, and 7.

July 15, and 20.

August 19, and 20.

September 6, and 7.

October 5.

November 15, and 19.

December 6, 7, and 9.

Furthermore, they will have in the Change of every Moon two unfortunate Days, in which they recount whatsoever thing is begun late, or ever done, it shall come to no good.

In *January* the 3 and 4 Days of the New Moon.

In *February* the 5 and 7.

In *April* the 5 and 9.

In *March* the 6 and 7.

In *May* the 8 and 9.

In *June* the 5 and 15.

In *July* the 3 and 13.

In *August* the 8 and 13.

In *September* the 8 and 13.

In *October* the 5 and 12.

In *November* the 5 and 9.

In *December* the 3 and 13.

Again, there are some that prick out of the whole Year six most unfortunate Days above all other, wherein they advise no Man for to bleed, or take any Drink, because the Effects of the Constellations work mightily to Death; and in other Respects, that they might be unfortunate. They are, *January* the 3d, *April* the 30th, *July* the 1st, *August* the 1st, *October* the 2d, and *December* the 31st.

Moreover, there are certain unfortunate Days in the Year, call'd *Dog-Days*, which are accounted very prejudicial to Health: They begin the 19th of *July*, and end the 27th of *August*; the Malignity of which Days *Pliny* discourseth of, *Lib. 1. Cap. 40.* in his Natural History. Likewise, throughout *England* the 28th of *December*, being *Innocent's-day*, called *Childermas*, or *Cross-day*, the People resent as an unfortunate Day.

There are other short Observations for each Month in the Year, which I have thought fit to affix, though of different Effects. If the Sun shine the 12th of *January*, there shall be store of Wind that Year. If it thunders upon *Shrove-Tuesday* in *February*, it signifieth Wind, store of Fruit, and Plenty, the Sun-beams being early abroad; and so much as he shineth that Day, he will shine in the same manner every Day in *Lent*. So many Mists as there be in *March*, so many hoary Frosts will be after *Easter*. If it rain on the *Ascension-day*, (which most commonly falleth in *April*) it doth betoken Scarcity of all kind of Food for Cattel; but being fair, it signifieth Plenty. If the Sun shine upon the 25th of *May*, Wine will prosper well: Also in the End of *May*, if Oaks begin to bear Blossoms, it doth foreshew much Tallow and Fruit. If it rain the 24th of *June*, Hazel-nuts will not thrive. If it be fair three Sundays before *St. James's-day*, Corn will be good. If the Wind change upon *St. Bartholomew's-day* at Night, the following Year will not be fruitful. In *September*, so many Days old as the Moon is on *Michaelmas-day*, so many Floods will be that Winter. In *October*, if Leaves hang on the Trees, it portends a cold Winter, and many Caterpillars. *November* 10th, if on that Day the Heavens are cloudy, it prognosticates a wet Winter. If

Christ.

Christmas-day come in the New of the Moon, it is a Sign of a good Year; and so much the better, by how much it is nearer the New Moon; the contrary happeneth it its Decrease.

I have inserted these last Observations, rather to please some conceited old People, rather than any should be induced to give any certain Credence to them; nor shall they want their old Story of St. Paul's Day:

*If St. Paul be fair and clear,
It doth betoken a happy Year:
But if it chance to Snow or Rain,
Then will be dear all kind of Grain:
And if that Winds they are aloft,
Then shall we hear of Wars full oft:
And if it do Thunder that Day,
Great Dearth shall be, as wise Men say.*

Another old Saying.

*When our Lord doth lie in the Virgin's Lap,
Then, Oh England, beware of a Clap.*

The Names and Properties of the Twelve Winds.

THE Wind is an Exhalation hot and dry, ingendred in the hollow Concavities of the Earth, which breaking forth, moveth the side-ways upon the Earth, of which formerly was known but Twelve; but now Thirty Two, as may be seen by the Mariners Compass, of which we shall not need to discourse. The four Principal and Cardinal Winds are these: *Subsolanus*, *Favonius*, *Septentrional*, and *Auster*; or, East, West, North, and South. *Subsolanus*, or the East-wind, is by Nature hot, dry, temperate, pure, and subtile; it presenteth Health, is a Drier of things, raiseth Clouds, and produceth Flowers. *Favonius*, or the West Wind, is cold and moist; it also favoureth and bringeth forth Flowers; causeth Rain, Thunder, and Sicknes; dissolveth Cold; and by Nature is cold and

phlegmatick. *Septentrional*, or the North Wind, is cold and dry, driving away Rain, causeth Cold, and preserveth Health; it is destructive to the Flowers of the Earth, and causeth Whirlwinds, thick Snow and Rain. *Auster*, the Meridional and South Wind, is hot and moist, compared to the Air, causing large Clouds and great Rain. *Aristotle*, and his Sect, define this Wind to be a hot and dry Exhalation, ingendred in the hollow Concavities of the Earth; and the Reason they give, wherefore the Motion thereof is not right upward and downward, as well as side-long, is because that whilst by his Heat he driveth to mount up, and carry his Course thorough the three Regions of the Air, the middle Region, by reason of its Cold, doth always beat it back; therefore (together with other Exhalations rising out of the Earth) his Motion is forced to be rather round than upright. Now the Cause why it bloweth more sharply at one time than another, and at some times not at all, is according to the Fumes that arise out of new Exhalations out of Floods, Fens, and Marshes, which augments his Force, the Defect whereof may either allay or increase it. Likewise Mountains, Hills, and Woods, (by reason of the Earth's Rotundity) may hinder its Force from blowing in all places equally; whereas upon the plain and broad Sea it bloweth with an equal Force; concerning the ceasing thereof divers Reasons might be assigned; as, the Frost congealing the Pores of the Earth, from whence it should issue; or the Sun drying up the Fumes and Vapours that should increase it.

*North Winds send Hail, South Winds Rain,
East Winds we bewail, West Winds blow again;
North-East is too cold, South-East too warm,
North-West too bold, South-West doth no Harm.*

Of the Nativity of our Lord, falling on any of the Seven Days in the Week; thereby shewing the Disposition of the Year.

IF the Nativity of our Lord fall on a *Sunday*, the Spring shall be windy, Summer moist, and a plentiful Harvest; Oxen and Sheep shall greatly increase, Peace and Plenty shall flourish in the Land, Men shall be stout, valiant, and overcome their Enemies; he that flyeth shall be found, and Theft shall be proved. If it fall on a *Monday*, there shall be great store of Frost and Snow in the Winter, the Spring shall be moist, and the Summer dry; many Sheep shall die of the Rot; Wheat shall be dear; there shall be a plentiful Vintage; many Women shall die in Child-bed; to enterprize any thing it shall be prosperous; Theft done by Women shall soon be proved. If it fall on a *Tuesday*, the Winter shall be warm and moist, a late Spring, and dry Summer; Fruit shall be scarce, Pestilential Diseases shall reign throughout the Land, which shall sweep away Thousands; Bees shall die, and Sheep shall multiply; Men shall desire to travel, and he that flyeth shall soon be found. If it fall on the *Wednesday*, the Winter shall be exceeding sharp and hard, much Frost, Snow, and Hail; the Spring shall be wet and windy, Summer dry, with store of Thunder; there shall be great store of Grass, and plentiful Harvest; many shall attain to great Dignity and Promotion; Kings and Princes shall run through many Hazards; Young Men shall die, and Cattel shall multiply. If it fall on a *Thursday*, there shall be a dry Spring, and a wet Summer; Grain shall fall, and there shall be great Plenty of Grass. But if it doth rain on *Easter-day*, we shall have plenty of Grass, but little good Hay; many Ships shall perish on the Sea, many shall attain to great Wealth by the Practice of the Law, and he that declineth shall soon recover. If it be on a *Friday*, there shall be marvellous Floods in Winter, the Spring shall be moist, and the Summer dry; Wine and Corn shall be plentiful and good, Sheep shall prosper, the

small Fruits and Seeds of Gardens shall flourish, many great Men shall die, there shall be great Peace and Honour to all Kings and Governours. If it be on the *Saturday*, it shall be a good rainy Winter, the Spring shall be moist and warm, the Summer and Harvest very good Weather, Swine shall many of them die, Sheep be diseased, and abundance of Cattel perish; there shall be great Plenty of Hay, Wine and Corn, but Fruit shall be scarce; many shall die suddenly: Begin no lasting VVork on *Saturday*, especially towards the Evening.

Thus you see I have also affixed this old Prognostication, as I know it to be of Authentick Authority with many; being the dear Delight also of some ancient People, who discourse much to this purpose, and of VVitches, on cold VVinter-nights by the Fire-side with a Pot of good Ale.

E I N I S.

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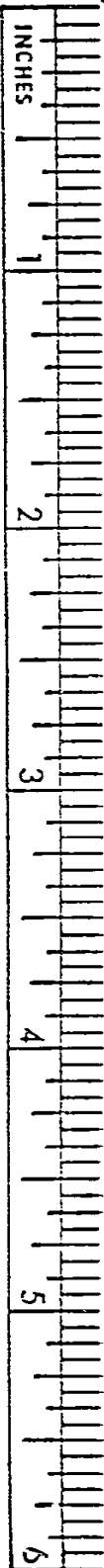
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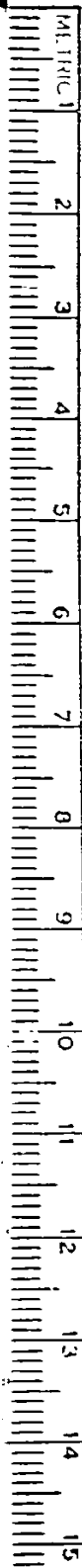


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